

The Watchman

In Ezekiel 33, our Lord tells us of one of His ordained instructions, that of the watchman. In the context of the time in which it was written, there was often imminent physical danger from both killer beasts and armed enemies who would attack wherever there was weakness. Therefore, people gathered together and built cities and surrounded them with walls on which they would assign sentinels, or watchman, to provide advance warning so that the gates could be closed and the able could arm and be ready to defend the City. Here God provides instruction and reveals the risks associated with the job of the watchman in a much broader context. In His description of the watchman on the rampart, He says that when the watchman sees danger approaching and blows the warning trumpet in a timely and appropriate manner, those who heed not the warning have only themselves to blame. But if he fails to warn the people, their blood is on his hands, and God says that it is the watchman's blood, which He will require.

Then God uses the watchman as an analogy in verse 7-9 where He says, "Now for you son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel, so you will hear a message from my mouth and give them warning from Me. When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you will surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. But if you, on your part, warn a wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life."

Although found in the Old Testament and directed toward Israel, it is equally directed to you and me, and all who know or should know His word and are His disciples. For He said in Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Also, in 2 Timothy 3:16 the Holy Spirit tells us that "All Scripture is given by inspirations of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness...." Furthermore, in 2 Timothy 4:2-5 we are exhorted to "...preach the Word; be instant in season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

The above verses need little or no explanation; they are self evident as New Testament affirmations of the watchman message. However, their application is less simple than that of the watchman in the tower charged to warn of approaching physical enemies. Here we are dealing with the more subtle, less evident attacking of principalities and powers, and the great deceiver, as well as of man’s own weakness, ignorance, and innate wicked nature. But how can we perform the duties of the watchman, which Scripture demands of us, unless we know Scripture, unless we study earnestly His Word with the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit who has promised to reveal all things to those who truly seek to know. If you consider yourself born-again, you have the obligation to be a “watchman.” Do you know the Scripture well enough to fulfill that mandate? If not, why not?

Do you think your responsibility as a bride of Christ ended when you said, “I do.”? Bible study, learning and conveying as much as possible of God’s Word, seems to be the most neglected and ignored aspects of the “Christian marriage.” With so many false prophets and false gospels being preached today, how do you even know for sure that you are married to the right Jesus? There are many, many counterfeit Jesuses around today, counterfeits that look and sound so real that only the biblically literate can tell the difference. You become so only through studying His Word, the whole Word of God, not just the portions that please you and make you feel good, or what others tell you about.

When Jacob found Rachel, she became his only true love. Her father Laban extracted seven years of servitude from him as payment for his right to marry Rachel. However, it wasn’t until the morning after his marriage that he discovered that he had been tricked into marrying Rachel’s older sister Leah. He then worked another seven years in order to

marry his true love. There are “tricksters” around today in the pulpits, on TV and radio, as well as in books, magazines and street corners, far more clever and far better equipped than Laban to fool you into marrying any one of a multitude of false Jesuses. Thorough knowledge of Scripture is your only solid defense. Does it disturb you to think that perhaps it could be on that fateful day when you kneel before the judgment seat, confident that you are the Judge’s bride, that He may look at you and say, “depart from me. I never knew you.”? Don’t take any chances; know His whole Word, so that you will know Him, and know who He is not. Then surely He will know you!