



Scriptures and Doctrine :: The Watchman

The Watchman, on: 2010/12/19 21:23

"...if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, ﻿he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.﻿Â' ... I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me." Ezekiel 33:6-7

"Some one, then, must undertake the ungracious task of probing and laying bare the evils of the age; for men must not be allowed to congratulate themselves that all is well. If others will not, he will.

If others shrink from the obloquy of such a work, he will not.... He loves his fellow-men too well. They may upbraid him; they may call him a misanthropist, or a prophet of evil; they may ascribe his warnings to the worst of motives, such as pride, or arrogance, or self-esteem, or malice, or envy; but he will give no heed to these unjust insinuations.

He will prefer being thus misunderstood and maligned, to allowing men to precipitate themselves upon a ruin which they see not. Rather than that they should perish, he will allow his own good name to be spoken against. He will risk every thing, even the hatred of brethren, rather than withhold the warning. If they give no heed to it, he has, at least, saved his own soul. If they do, he has saved both his own soul and theirs.

He would rather take up the glad tidings of peace, and tell men of Him who came the first time for shame and death, and who is coming the second time for glory and dominion; but he feels as one who has a special and personal message to deliver, which cannot be postponed.

He must remember that he is a watchman; and, having seen danger pressing on, he must not hesitate to make it known. He must speak his message of forewarning and rebuke, sparing no arrows, and neither smoothing down nor hiding any form of sin, but laying his finger upon every sore, and beseeching men to turn from their ungodliness. The evils around him press upon him sadly; the coming evils are foreshadowed upon his spirit, and, therefore, he lifts up his voice like a trumpet.

Satan has many snares which need to be detected; the world has many spells and lures which must be disenchanting; religion has many guises which must be unmasked, many devious paths of inconsistency which must be pointed out, many cherished errors which must be condemned, many carnal taints which must be abhorred and shunned. All these he must protest against without fear or favour."

by Scottish pastor, Horatius Bonar

Re: The Watchman - posted by bowmyknees, on: 2010/12/20 16:48

Thank you

GOD bless you

Re: The Watchman - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2010/12/20 17:20

Quote:

-----but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand

I think Paul was aware of this warning when he said to the Ephesian elders: "I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ...Therefore I testify to you this day that I am INNOCENT OF THE BLOOD OF ALL MEN. For I have not shunned to declare to you the WHOLE counsel of God."

Blessings to you brother.

Re: The Watchman - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/20 22:15

Amen. May God continue to raise up such watchmen.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/12/20 23:22

hi, i see no new testament ministry gift called the watchman but have met many young men who believe that this is their calling.it usually stems from a puffed up,self centered,selfrighteous,low performing individual.it is however important that you take care to watch over the children that you are responsible for and protect them against the wiles of the devil being loosed upon the earth.paul surely looked after the people he was responsible for.he was their pastor and their father in the faith.remember that satan is the accuser of the brethren and we are not to join in league with him in this endeavor.we are to do justly,love mercy and walk humbly with or God.jimp

Re: The Watchman - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/20 23:35

"Who say to the seers, "You must not see visions"; And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right, Speak to us pleasant words, Prophecy illusions."
(Isaiah 30:10)

Sadly, that is the sentiment not only of non-believers but also believers.

Like the original post lays out, you that are given a hard word from the Lord cannot let such sentiments discourage you from preaching that word.

Re: - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2010/12/20 23:37

Satan, who is the accuser of the brethren will give the people an encouraging message like: " You shall NOT surely die ." Gen 3:4 that produces death, while the watchman who does the dirty work of telling people depressing messages like : " You shall surely die. " Eze 3:18 that produce repentance and life.

A message is valued not by its severity, but by its fruit.
Does it produce death or does it produce life.

The false prophets' message was peace, peace when there was no peace because the people were living in sin.

It seems a loving message outwardly, but the fruit was death.

Re: - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2010/12/20 23:42

Quote:

-----you that are given a hard word from the Lord cannot let such sentiments discourage from preaching that word.

Amen brother. May God raise more men who are not afraid to speak the hard message that brings life. Because if God r uns out of men, you know what will happen? He will raise women, children, and yes, even dumb animals.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/12/21 0:04

hi, at the birth of Jesus the angels cried out peace on earth...not satan.Jesus said that He did not come to condemn the world but to save it.a man who has no influence has no power to be a watchman for his cries are without any respect. if you want to be a watchman first you must be recognized and respected for your credibility. any idiot can cry wolf even if he has never seen a wolf.this negative and critical move has not changed anything at all. the wolves are still fleecing the sheep... the profits are still robbing the widows and orphans...the immoral are still ministering.nothing has changed...it has gotten much worse.jimp

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/21 0:10

hi, Jesus said He did not come to bring peace but a sword. The first message He preached was repentance, the same for every true preacher of Jesus Christ. Those who want to continue thinking that things are not that bad can continue in their delusion. Jeremiah cried out day and night with little results to show. Success in God's eyes is not about numbers but faithfulness to Him and His Word.

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/21 0:22

Quote:
-----If others shrink from the obloquy of such a work, he will not.... He loves his fellow-men too well. They may upbraid him; they may call him a misanthropist, or a prophet of evil; they may ascribe his warnings to the worst of motives, such as pride, or arrogance, or self-esteem, or malice, or envy; but he will give no heed to these unjust insinuations.

I love Horatius Bonar. He did not sugar-coat anything.

Re: Death can come upon you by not loving the truth. The Watchman., on: 2010/12/21 0:41

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to "set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law";

36 and "a man's enemies will be those of his own household."

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.....

" Those who want to continue thinking that things are not that bad can continue in their delusion. Jeremiah cried out day and night with little results to show. Success in God's eyes is not about numbers but faithfulness to Him and His Word."..
.Oracio

Amen.

Re: , on: 2010/12/21 0:52

As someone who believes in the role of watchmen and people with " beautiful feet," runners from Isa 52 I also have sympathy with brother Jimp's position. I have met self-proclaimed watchmen, especially some young men, who believe themselves to be watchmen and cry out judgment on the streets. What was striking about my own experience with these young men was their lack of love. They wanted judgment, they were calling down fire from heaven.

I think of Abraham interceding with God for Sodom! Sodom brothers and sisters. He knew that God was going to destroy the cities and in Gen 18 he actually gets in front of God and intercedes for what is still a by-word for wickedness thousands of years later. Brothers and sisters, this is the heart of God. Did justice fall? Yes, God's justice fell. Moses interceded on behalf of a people who had just fallen down and worshipped a calf and had risen up to " play." Now, ultimately only two of that whole generation made it out of the desert, but in the crying out to God by Moses we see the heart of God

We know that " God so loved the world." We know this to be the heart of God. He does not rejoice in the destruction of the wicked. He would have that none would be lost. Yet, we also know this, God is love. When men that have been called by God stand up and be watchmen on the wall, be runners with beautiful feet, you will know them. You will always know them by their love, no matter how hard their message. As brother Carter Conlon put it, " beware the angry watchmen."

And so who is a genuine watchmen or runner? What are some of the characteristics we should expect to see? Well here are some basics..... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek0FEVWCyok>

Re: - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2010/12/21 16:53

The Heart of God.

I was stirred to ask God today a question that had occupied my thinking for a while. Lord, what do you see in man? What made you step into flesh, come and live on a corrupted earth, and Die...? For man..? Man had tried to take your place, and be like God. He sided with your enemy, the Devil. It doesn't make sense.

The heart of God is love... For sinners... And yes, even those who will never repent.

I was taught that since God does not change, His love does not change, it stands the reason that he does not love sinners who He knows by His omniscience will never repent. I was taught that the verses in Matthew 5: 43-48 do not speak of God's love, but of His goodness. But after reading it over and over again, I found that it does speak of God's love.

Read this,

43Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

The passage speaks of love. Jesus said: We ought to love even as the Father loves. We ought to love our enemies even as He loves His enemies. He continues to give sunlight and rain to those who will use the sunlight to murder and commit adultery, and will never repent! We know that not every one will repent. In fact, very few will. And God knows that...and continues to be good to them....Why?

We are told in Romans: 2: 4 that the goodness of God has a purpose. It purposes to bring men to repentance...For God is not willing that any would perish but that all may come to repentance... He has no delight in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked would turn from His wicked way and live. Now ask this. If God desires that the wicked would repent that he may be spared eternal judgment...Wouldn't that mean love?

The Judgment of God.

Here is where things may seem contradictory.

That same goodness the wicked receives now will stand on the Day of Judgment to accuse and condemn Him. The sun shine, rain, health, prosperity, blessings, ... will be the court jury that will testify against the accused and pass the eternal sentence.

Jesus said to the crowd: "If anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

And again: "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin ... If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; ..."

That same Word that was meant to bring salvation will stand as a witness against the wicked on that great day of the Lord to bring condemnation.

Behold the goodness and severity of God ... For the Lord is just and loves justice, the upright will see His face.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

Re: - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2010/12/21 17:01

The angry watchmen by Carter Conlon.

I have listened to this message a few months ago. The only problem I see with it is that it is unbiblical.

First, Mr. Conlon was talking about the angry watchmen who pronounce judgment. He called them the accusers of the brethren and workers of the devil. Who take certain passages out of the scripture out of context. I believe he was referring to the warnings in the Book of Hebrews.

He said that these are the ones Paul talks about in 1 Tim 4
1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;
3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meat, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

He said that they forbid the bride (church) from marrying the groom (Christ).

He was able to get that from verse 3 in 1 Timothy.

He also was able to find the connection between 1 Timothy and the Song of Solomon since the latter speaks of the bride and the groom as 1 Timothy does.

As for the meat part in 1 Timothy (commanding to abstain from meat), he was also able to find that in the Song of Solomon. He said that these angry watchmen forbid the bride and the groom to meet.

That is where he got scratching my head. Is it talking about the MEAT that you eat, or MEET as in "to meet in the street"

The problem with Mr. Conlon and the like who try to take away the warnings of the Scriptures is that they are moving with a human sentiment. They would go as far as saying the Apostle who wrote these passages was the Devil himself because to them, any one who says that people need to be careful not to fall away since the Bible teaches it is impossible for such to be renewed again unto repentance would be the ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN.

Should we take away the warning passages from the scriptures in order to encourage people and give them hope? Is that how God works?

4And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

5So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:

8But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

9Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

10And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

What a harsh message Jonah had!!! But wait, why didn't the people get discouraged?

What if Jonah had said this instead: God loves you. He has elected you from the foundation of the world. He loved you when you were yet a sinner, and He knows very well that you are unable to repent.

What fruit would that have produced?

Re: True Watchmen - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/21 17:12

good post Untobabes.

Just to clarify, I agree with appolos/Frank, that the true preacher should have the love God as the foundation of his motive and message. And I agree that there should be a balanced theme of both the severity and kindness of God(Rom.11:22).

However, I used to think that every single message from a true preacher of Christ has to have the good news and love of God proclaimed and expressed in it and not just the hard message of God's Judgment. I realized that that sentiment is not really biblical, even in considering just the New Testament.

John Baptist, Christ and the apostles did not always include the good news in their preaching. They sometimes left that part out, depending on how they were led of the Spirit in any given situation.

I too used to judge all preachers whom I would hear preach only warnings and judgment in their message on the streets. I am not that quick to judge nowadays.

That said, sometimes I can tell in my spirit when a street preacher is not from God, that is, when the love of God and men is not the underlying motivation.

Re: - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2010/12/21 17:34

Quote:
----- I agree with appolos/Frank, that the true preacher should have the love God as the foundation of his motive and message. And I agree that there should be a balanced theme of both the severity and kindness of God(Rom.11:22).

I agree too.

If giving one's body to burn, or one's money for the poor in nothing to God without love, then how much more would be giving the offending message of the gospel without love.

If people are to be offended let them be offended at the message, not the attitude by which the message was delivered.

If people can not see tears in our eyes, and hear the choking in our voice when we tell them that they are going to hell if they do not repent and believe on the Lord Jesus, then we should be silent.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/12/21 20:00

hi, Jesus did not use the term watchman in the accounts of His ministry but He did use the word Pharisee. most of the watchmen i have run into would fall into this category, not all...if you want to have fun come to new orleans where i have ministered for years during mardi gras when a million sinning, obnoxious, drunken people are and try to preach judgement. it did not work in sodom either...jimp

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/21 21:58

hi, by watchmen we mean servants who desire to declare the whole counsel of God, both the kindness and severity of God proclaimed throughout Scripture. If you want to call them Pharisees go ahead, they do that with many, including Ravenhill, who you claim to be very fond of.

Did not Ravenhill say we need more Holy Ghost-filled hellfire preachers in these dark days? If you don't like the word watchman you can call them that instead.

Many Christians today tune Ravenhill's messages off because they think they are too extreme and legalistic/Pharisaic. Why? because he emphasized true holiness unto the Lord, and constantly rebuked the Church for her lack of burning love toward Jesus Christ and her spiritual adultery.

Re: , on: 2010/12/22 2:50

I've been studying this, out of sheer curiosity. What I've found is that not all watchmen are prophets but all prophets are watchmen.

I believe that GOD 'does' call some to 'watch' more than others but for the sake of others - out of sheer love for their fellow Family members - and as was posted here by our brothers - this 'whole' walk is out of sheer Love and nothing less. Not for 'self' nor for attention nor for admiration from others, but just the sheer Love of He Who IS The Truth and for the protection of HIS sheep - even if it costs us our lives.

I don't feel anyone should 'declare' themselves to BE a watchman, prophet, teacher or anything other than His child, because we are One Body. We Need each other. No part of the Body is better than the other. We're all needed and need each other.

Jimp, I've met more false prophets, false teachers, false apostles, false evangelists and false 'watchmen' than I can bear anymore, but this below from Ravenhill still speaks volumes. I also know that Jesus spoke differently to sinners than to the 'religious'. Paul also could get pretty upset with those who twisted HIS Word or led others to do so or to sin - IN the Church.

I'm sure that that aged Paul as well, more than any of his ship wrecks, floggings, etc etc did.

I don't believe anyone should or can "seek to be a prophet" and that 'title' (and others) has been more abused in the last 20 or so years than ever before in the History of the Church, but nonetheless - Satan always counterfeits the genuine since the beginning and 'that' will only increase as time goes on. But I do believe that for the Love of His Body, we should all seek to be watchmen/women.

All we can pray is for a Love of His Truth and pray for Mercy to not be deceived - taking special notice just how many times that Jesus told us to do both.

GOD Bless you.

Picture of a Prophet by Leonard Ravenhill

The prophet in his day is fully accepted of God and totally rejected by men.

Years back, Dr. Gregory Mantle was right when he said, "No man can be fully accepted until he is totally rejected." The prophet of the Lord is aware of both these experiences. They are his "brand name."

The group, challenged by the prophet because they are smug and comfortably insulated from a perishing world in their

warm but untested theology, is not likely to vote him "Man of the year" when he refers to them as habitués of the synagogue of Satan!

The prophet comes to set up that which is upset. His work is to call into line those who are out of line! He is unpopular because he opposes the popular in morality and spirituality. In a day of faceless politicians and voiceless preachers, there is not a more urgent national need than that we cry to God for a prophet! The function of the prophet, as Austin-Sparks once said, "has almost always been that of recovery."

The prophet is God's detective seeking for a lost treasure. The degree of his effectiveness is determined by his measure of unpopularity. Compromise is not known to him.

He has no price tags.

He is totally "otherworldly."

He is unquestionably controversial and unpardonably hostile.

He marches to another drummer!

He breathes the rarefied air of inspiration.

He is a "seer" who comes to lead the blind.

He lives in the heights of God and comes into the valley with a "thus saith the Lord."

He shares some of the foreknowledge of God and so is aware of impending judgment.

He lives in "splendid isolation."

He is forthright and outright, but he claims no birthright.

His message is "repent, be reconciled to God or else...!"

His prophecies are parried.

His truth brings torment, but his voice is never void.

He is the villain of today and the hero of tomorrow.

He is excommunicated while alive and exalted when dead!

He is dishonored with epithets when breathing and honored with epitaphs when dead.

He is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, but few "make the grade" in his class.

He is friendless while living and famous when dead.

He is against the establishment in ministry; then he is established as a saint by posterity.

He eats daily the bread of affliction while he ministers, but he feeds the Bread of Life to those who listen.

He walks before men for days but has walked before God for years.

He is a scourge to the nation before he is scourged by the nation.

He announces, pronounces, and denounces!

He has a heart like a volcano and his words are as fire.

He talks to men about God.

He carries the lamp of truth amongst heretics while he is lampooned by men.

He faces God before he faces men, but he is self-effacing.

He hides with God in the secret place, but he has nothing to hide in the marketplace.

He is naturally sensitive but supernaturally spiritual.

He has passion, purpose and pugnacity.

He is ordained of God but disdained by men.

Our national need at this hour is not that the dollar recover its strength, or that we save face over the Watergate affair, or that we find the answer to the ecology problem. We need a God-sent prophet!

I am bombarded with talk or letters about the coming shortages in our national life: bread, fuel, energy. I read between the lines from people not practiced in scaring folk. They feel that the "seven years of plenty" are over for us. The "seven years of famine" are ahead. But the greatest famine of all in this nation at this given moment is a FAMINE OF THE HEARING OF THE WORDS OF GOD (Amos 8:11).

Millions have been spent on evangelism in the last twenty-five years. Hundreds of gospel messages streak through the air over the nation every day. Crusades have been held; healing meetings have made a vital contribution. "Come-outers"

have "come out" and settled, too, without a nation-shaking revival. Organizers we have. Skilled preachers abound. Multi-million dollar Christian organizations straddle the nation. BUT where, oh where, is the prophet? Where are the incandescent men fresh from the holy place? Where is the Moses to plead in fasting before the holiness of the Lord for our moldy morality, our political perfidy, and sour and sick spirituality?

GOD'S MEN ARE IN HIDING UNTIL THE DAY OF THEIR SHOWING FORTH. They will come. The prophet is violated during his ministry, but he is vindicated by history.

There is a terrible vacuum in evangelical Christianity today. The missing person in our ranks is the prophet. The man with a terrible earnestness. The man totally otherworldly. The man rejected by other men, even other good men, because they consider him too austere, too severely committed, too negative and unsociable.

Let him be as plain as John the Baptist.

Let him for a season be a voice crying in the wilderness of modern theology and stagnant "churchianity."

Let him be as selfless as Paul the apostle.

Let him, too, say and live, "This ONE thing I do."

Let him reject ecclesiastical favors.

Let him be self-abasing, nonself-seeking, nonself-projecting, nonself-righteous, nonself-glorying, nonself-promoting.

Let him say nothing that will draw men to himself but only that which will move men to God.

Let him come daily from the throne room of a holy God, the place where he has received the order of the day.

Let him, under God, unstop the ears of the millions who are deaf through the clatter of shekels milked from this hour of material mesmerism.

Let him cry with a voice this century has not heard because he has seen a vision no man in this century has seen. God send us this Moses to lead us from the wilderness of crass materialism, where the rattlesnakes of lust bite us and where enlightened men, totally blind spiritually, lead us to an ever-nearing Armageddon.

God have mercy! Send us PROPHETS!

Re: Watchman - posted by BroRed (), on: 2010/12/22 10:40

I think that a proper understanding of the "watchman" is one who knowing the Truth/truth, is called to "watch" for error and deceit. A double-edged sword indeed. The watchman is not only responsible for the truth given to him, but for those given under his care.

Is the prophet responsible for the hearers or only the message? Or both?

It appears that the watchman is responsible for both.

I don't know that this is fully in line with the Biblical idea of the watchman. It is worthy of more study.

Re: , on: 2010/12/22 12:02

Trying not to stray too far from the only place where we read about "watchmen". As one brother mentioned that, we only find this title in the O.T..

I believe, in these days that we're living through, that watchmen are not much different than they were back then.

I do appreciate H. Bonar's description but I wasn't quite sure if his calling was only or just doctrinal truth that "watchmen" watched for. My idea of a watchman in these days is one who watches outside the walls, from being atop of it - alerting those within of an oncoming trouble.

The watchmen 'see' it with their eyes but the prophet may see/feel it in his spirit.

Only because we don't find this term in the NT is what brings me to this conclusion and that I've known true "watchmen" that can tell us what is transpiring in this world, that is an oncoming threat to the church.

Just my thoughts. Appreciate any other's thoughts.

Re: , on: 2010/12/22 12:36

Something got me to thinking about the military way of "guard duty". We all had to stand guard duty at one time or another. Only a physical impairment would make one exempt.

I wonder if it was the same for those called to be watchman on the wall in the OT accounts?

Re: , on: 2010/12/22 13:26

It is clear that there is differing ideas on what a Watchman is in relation to these present times. How does the Bible describe a watchman? It seems clear from the 17 verses that this word can be found that a watchman is typically elevated above the city. He has a vantage point and is able to scan the horizon for enemies and for "runners." A runner would be those talked about in Isa 52 in regard to "beautiful feet." They would carry a message, typically from the battle-field, to the waiting city. And so there is a relationship between the watchmen and the runners.

So today, a watchman could "see," the approaching enemy. Much like a prophet who would speak to the state of the people and possible impending judgement. I believe that God lays a burden on certain people, it is their calling to see and speak to approaching judgement. You will not be able to tell a watchman to go easy and relax, he has a fire burning in his bones and God Himself has set the fire.

A watchman will typically be loud because they work in the night. When all are asleep the watchmen are set upon the walls. If an enemy is coming, he would make much noise in order to wake the people up and warn them. The problem lies with the self appointed watchmen and self appointed prophets. They can both be right, they can both shout about impending judgement, but the false watchmen does not care about the judgement, he wants people judged. Gods watchmen and prophets love God with such a consuming love that despite being hated and mistreated, they will stand and speak what has been spoken to them. Their heart will be the heart of God.

Just imagine that you receive news that a loved one is going to die. Only two people know, you and one other that hates the loved one. You both show up at the same time to deliver the news. And so you, with your broken heart and tears, tell your loved one that his time is short and that he is going to die. Now the one that hates him tells him the exact same thing and smiles broadly. Both have delivered the same message, one is Godly and the other is wicked and God judges the hearts of man.

2Sa 18:24 And David sat between the two gates. And the watchman went up to the roof over the gate to the wall, and lifted up his eyes and looked. And behold, a man ran alone.

2Ki 9:17 And a watchman stood on the tower in Jezreel. And he saw the company of Jehu as he came, and said, I see a company. And Jehoram said, Take a horseman and send to meet them, and let him say, Is it peace?

Isa 21:6 For so Jehovah has said to me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he sees.

Eze 3:17 Son of man, I have made you a watchman to the house of Israel. Therefore hear the Word of My mouth, and give them warning from Me.

Eze 33:2 Son of man, speak to the sons of your people, and say to them: When I bring the sword on it, on a land, and take one man from the people of the land, of their borders, and set him for their watchman

Eze 33:6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming, and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned; if the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity. But I will require his blood at the watchman's hand.

Eze 33:7 And you, son of man, I have set you a watchman to the house of Israel. Therefore you shall hear the Word from My mouth, and warn them from Me.

Make no mistake brothers and sisters. Men and woman who are called of God to this have always been resisted. There are many, for a thousand different reasons, who would oppose the watchmen on the wall. They would lull the people back to sleep. They would tell them not to listen to those guys. I am reminded of the stirring introduction of the revival hymn where Ian Paisly in that giant booming Irish voice shouts ' THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS LARGELY SLEEPING LIKE A GREAT BEDROOM AND YOU HAVE ALL THE CHRISTIANS IN BED AND THEY'RE ALL SLEEPING AND THEY'RE SAYING " PLEASE DONT WAKE ME UP!"

AWAKE! AWAKE! PUT ON STRENGTH. WAKEN UP YOU SLEEPY CHRISTIANS. AWAKE, THOU THAT SLEEPETH! ARISE FROM THE DEAD! CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIFE!

Re: Context of Ezekiel 33:6-7 - posted by Oracio (), on: 2010/12/22 13:28

From Bonar's quote:

Quote:
-----"Some one, then, must undertake the ungracious task of probing and laying bare the evils of the age; for men must not be allowed to congratulate themselves that all is well. If others will not, he will.

I think that that briefly sums up what Ezekiel is referring to regarding the watchman. God basically commands the prophet to give a warning of judgment for sin. I don't believe we have scriptural warrant to make this out to be some special class or office of Christians, other than preachers of righteousness.

To some degree or another we are all called to be watchmen/women, to warn those in sin of the danger they are in unless they repent and turn to Christ.

This is needful both outside and inside the Church, both to the unbelieving world and professing Christendom.

Re: , on: 2010/12/22 14:27

Bless you all for stressing His Love as the motivating force behind any of these ministries.

None of us are Omniscient nor omnipresent, but we are Body parts working together to get these puzzle pieces together, as each finds them, to make a picture more clear.

Even prophets are not omniscient. We need to have mercy on each other. But, as all have said, whatever the ministry - whether pastor, teacher, evangelist, apostle, prophet, watchman - at times the message of warning is hard but the only time it is offensive, is if as Appolus wrote - when the heart is not in love with HIS Body. When 'self' is the motivator. Self promotion or for accolades.

I know some men across the ocean from the U.S. that watch the world events - current events as we call them and blow their trumpets. These are also Watchmen.

"The Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy" and I believe with all of my heart that that will and does include eschatology as well - knowing the times and the main players of moving this world into a one world everything, so to speak.

I just feel so grateful for those who I have met and prayed with and have read their posts since getting back online this time. Thank You LORD Jesus for your beautiful Body.

Remind us Who the Head of this Body is - In Jesus Name - Dear GOD, I Thank you!

Thank You that you are continually working on us - changing us - growing us up - revealing the Truths You need us to know - as we grow in Loving you more than ourselves.

Bless GOD our Righteousness.

Re: - posted by cryinthenite, on: 2010/12/25 17:46

We are to walk in the light as He is in the light. Let your light shine. He will come as a thief in the night to those of the night. He is at the right hand of the father. We all are called to be His light in the earth till He come. That is the light of His Spirit. We are to show forth His death till He come. O that we would just come to the cross. Only by His spirit can any see anything. If we live unto the flesh we are in the dark deceive our selves and have nothing to warn any body of, you will both fall in to the ditch. It is the way of the cross and His suffering we must come to. That will shine and many will hate you for it.

Re: , on: 2011/1/7 14:11

Quote:

-----by BroRed on 2010/12/22 7:40:46

I think that a proper understanding of the "watchman" is one who knowing the Truth/truth, is called to "watch" for error and deceit. A double-edged sword indeed. The watchman is not only responsible for the truth given to him, but for those given under his care.

Is the prophet responsible for the hearers or only the message? Or both?

It appears that the watchman is responsible for both.

Brother Red, I need to confess to you that your post above halted me in my steps the day you posted it. I saw in your post the same as what Horatius Bonar had written in the OP (and other great men had as well, on this topic) and it truly did stop me in my tracks. I just took a deep gulp and went on to agree with the need for love along with the other brothers who replied here - which still stands & always will, but I read Bonar's again and well, GOD Bless you BroRed.

Love rejoices at His Truth and sometimes with tears.

We call those 'teary smiles' or 'smiling tears' - I don't know but Only GOD is GOOD!

Amen & Thanks!