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| Called to be a Spiritual Watchman  Ezekiel 3:16-21  3/25/2012  Minister Stephon Hogan, Sr. |

Sermon Title: Called to be a Spiritual Watchman

Sermon Text: Ezekiel 3:16-21

**“And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel:  therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him *not* warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to *save his life*; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but *his blood will I require at thine hand*.  Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; *but thou hast delivered THY soul*.  Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because thou has not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou has delivered thy soul. ”**

Pray

Sermon:

I would like to use the subject from which to attempt to teach, "Called to be a Spiritual Watchman." If there ever was a time that the Children of God needed to listen the time is now. If there ever was time that the Redeemed of the Lord needed to come together and unite under his word the time is now.

We see in our text that the prophet Ezekiel was **“Called to be a Watchman”** by God, over the people Israel.  When many consider the position of “watchman”, they assume it to be one who only is sent to “care for the needs of the people, watch over them, pray for their needs, and tend to them as a shepherd tends to his flock”.   But, the position of a “watchman” is far more than this for not only does it require a heart of love for the people and most importantly The Father, it also requires **Boldness, diligence, fearlessness, dedication, obedience to Jeho’vah our Father, and the ability to hear the voice of the Lord**.  In biblical times, a “Physical Watchman” was one who stood guarding the city walls, and upon sensing any immediate danger **inside** or **outside** of the walls, he would then sound an alarm to warn the people in advance of what lied ahead.   The prophet Ezekiel was called by God to be a “Spiritual Watchman” over the people and much like the “Physical Watchman”, he to had to warn the people in advance of impending dangers.

Strategically within the Body of Christ, the Lord God has placed “Spiritual Watchmen” over his people.  Like the “watchman” Ezekiel, such are called by God to warn the people of coming judgments, the importance of repentance, and the hidden dangers that lurk outside as well as **INSIDE** the body of Christ. They are called to speak forth the TRUTH without compromise, having no fear of what man may think, say, or attempt to do to them.  You may know them as “Messengers of God”, or “Prophets of God” but nonetheless, the requirements to fill this position are that in the same.   No one can call his/herself into the position of a “spiritual watchman”, as it is the Lord God’s Call, HIS CHOICE, for He knows the heart of every man and of every woman, and knows in advance just how far they will go to please Him. The word of God says in the first part of Romans 10:15, “How can they preach unless they are sent?”  He knows the weaknesses and the strengths, the faithfulness and unfaithfulness, the willingness and unwillingness of every individual.  The least likely person whom you may judge as “incapable”, or “outwardly weak”, will be the one the Lord will choose as He knows their inward capability, inward strengths and the faithfulness of their hearts towards Him.

There are many within the Body of Christ who’ve been **“Called to be a Watchman”**, and it is NOT an easy calling, nor a glamorous one as some may think.  It is a very serious position of which one should not take lightly and has **very serious** consequences for disobedience.  A watchman called of the Lord will often face ridicule and persecution, will be mocked and shamefully mistreated by the very ones they are called to “watch over” as many will despise their speech seeing it as a curse rather than a warning and will close their ears to the truth. However, he/she must have **“boldness”** and “**fearlessness”** when declaring what the Lord has spoken for the very reason that for such a one to choose to be silent, and not declare the warning of the Lord to the people when sensing the oncoming dangers, or knowing of the seemingly hidden dangers, he/she will suffer the consequences for the action of disobedience.  For the Lord declared in His word to the prophet Ezekiel here in the 3rd Chapter, verse 18 ***“When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.”***  Thus, a man or woman of God who refuses to speak the truth to one whose bound by sin allowing such a one to remain in sin which will lead to “spiritual death”, They will be held accountable for the death of that sinner.  Now, this is a harsh price to pay to remain silent, thus it would behoove the watchman to adhere to the voice of the Lord, and SPEAK the word of which He’s given out of love for the one in error, and out of LOVE and OBEDIENCE to The Father.  Afterwards, **“*He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear”***.  The importance is to be OBEDIENT to what the Lord has asked of you and speak forth HIS truths.  Those who have ears to hear WILL hear.  But, you who’ve been commanded by the Lord to declare his warnings upon his people of the judgment that awaits should they refuse to repent and continue in sin, if YOU remain silent and utter NOT a word of warning to your brother or sister, if YOU withhold the truth and such die in their sins, YOU will be responsible for his spiritual death.  It is the will of The Father that the warnings go forth that his children may be led to repentance.  Those **“Called to be a Watchman”** must speak forth ALL that the Lord commands to speak.

The Love of the Father in this is incomprehensible, yet many cannot see the Love although it’s quite visible.  For it is BECAUSE of HIS LOVE the warnings are sent forth that the wicked may turn from his wickedness, the unrighteous from his sin, that none should perish but should be saved.   If there were no love involved then he would remain silent and command silence of his watchman allowing the people to perish.

May we all heed to the warnings from the Lord, delivered through those whom he has **“Called to be a Watchman”**over His people.

My brothers and sisters we need to take the time to listen and to take heed to God’s word. In the book of Revelations beginning with chapter 2, we find that there are great rewards for listening and overcoming in this world.