

## 121.5 We Are Alarming!

After my dad retired from the Navy, he briefly served as a night watchman for a downtown bank in Jacksonville, FL. If you look up the definition of a watchman, you will see that a watchman is a person who guards a building at night to protect it from fire, vandals, or thieves and guards or patrols the streets at night.

God illustrated Ezekiel's duty to the nation with the image of the watchman on the city wall. The watchman was to be on guard for approaching danger and sound the alarm to warn its population. If the watchman saw the approaching enemy and failed to sound the alarm, he was responsible for the people's deaths. If he blew the trumpet of warning and the people failed to prepare, he was "off the hook," and the people were responsible for their own demise. Hear God's words to the prophet:

**<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man: 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. <sup>8</sup>When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall 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 at your hand. <sup>9</sup>Nevertheless, if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul [or saved your life].<sup>1</sup>**

The concept of the "watchmen" is an apt description for the NT "overseer." I used to think this referred to the role of the overseer of enslaved people in pointing out their places to work and making sure they stayed on task. Instead, it is the idea that elders are placed over congregations, not in power positions, but as shepherds serving and protecting their congregations from evil in all its forms. Elders who lord their positions over their members and fail to keep watch are not fulfilling their God-given responsibility. Remember Paul's words to the Ephesian elders:

**<sup>29</sup>For I know this, that after my departure, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup>Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup>Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn every one night and day with tears.<sup>2</sup>**

Christian Patriots are among the growing minority of Americans who see the looming national catastrophe ahead and are sounding the alarm as Paul Revere warned the countryside of the approaching British Regulars. The crisis we face is more significant than higher gas and food prices. It is an all-out war on America, and most of the population is distracted by busy lives and constant entertainment that they do not see the danger.

If we know the battle before us, we must engage and warn our friends and neighbors. An army that does not realize it is at war will quickly fall to the enemy. Too many Christians are unaware of the issues and when they begin to realize the seriousness, they prefer hiding in the barracks to stepping onto the battlefield. As my friend Craig points out, an ostrich can hide its head in the sand, but the lion will still eat it.

Despite the warning signs, too many Americans pretend that life is "business as usual" and do nothing to prepare for the spiritual battle before us. Those who are aware sound the alarm. Some of the citizens hit the "snooze" button and go back to sleep. Others unplug the clock. A few make a reality check and engage.

**JFK** never delivered a speech he prepared for in his fatal trip to Dallas. Let's make some applications to this paragraph.

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<sup>1</sup> Ezekiel 33:7-10 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Acts 20:29-31 (NKJV)

"We in this country, in this generation, are by destiny rather than choice the watchmen on the walls of world freedom. We ask, therefore, that we may be worthy of our power and responsibility, that we may exercise our strength with wisdom and restraint, and that we may achieve in our time and for all time the ancient vision of peace on earth, goodwill toward men." – **John F. Kennedy** (from a speech that was never delivered, due to Kennedy's death)

People want to separate church and state, but we cannot. The government's actions and philosophy affect churches. Churches should be affecting politics. Nevertheless, the followers of Christ are today's watchmen for freedom and faith because they go together. The warning we need to give is more profound than how we vote or whom we support for our POTUS. We have a spiritual issue that affects every American.

We are in tragic shape as a nation because we have forgotten God and His word. I sound like a broken record, but we must return to God, not conservative politics or outward law-abiding. Kennedy saw America as the world's watchman for freedom, and we are. True freedom or liberty only comes in the presence of God. He gives life, liberty, and property, and ensures the pursuit of happiness, not government or the laws of men.

Church leaders need to pay special attention to the watchman's role. God holds leaders to a higher standard than their congregations (**James 3:1**). If these pastors, elders, shepherds, overseers, boards of directors, et al. warn their churches of the dangers of the day, they are pleasing to the Lord. If they hide from today's realities and fail to give an alarm to the people, they are guilty of their end. Evangelist **Charles Finney** laid the responsibility at the feet of preachers to warn their congregations and direct them to engagement, not ignorance. If we fail as a nation, our pastors, preachers, and other church leaders fail at their responsibility to the people God entrusted them to.

Our country needs to be alarmed at our condition. Church leaders must sound that alarm to their congregations. We all must sound the alarm to our world. One day Jesus will return to judge the nations. It will be too late to warn the people of the evil removing our God-given blessings. We are to be good stewards of what He has given and inform people of the dangers of losing those blessings.

Let us be the watchmen God has commissioned and . . .

. . . Keep The Light of *Sounding the Alarm* Burning!

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