

THY KINGDOM COME #21
Developing A Biblical Worldview

I. Introduction

Tonight I want to continue our teaching on developing a biblical worldview that sees what we are to do in the face of the onslaught of evil in our present day. Last week we ministered a message on...

“Post Pandemic Pastors and the Sin of Silence”

We have seen, since the outbreak of the pandemic, significant assaults against the institutions of marriage and family and our freedom of speech, as well as an unprecedented abuse of political power by the federal government. The Christian response from most American pulpits has been what we called ‘the sin of silence’, taken from the words of German pastor/theologian...

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Silence in the face of evil is evil itself. And God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

Bonhoeffer was rebuking the pastors of the Christian churches in Germany for their sinful silence while the nation was falling under the spell of Adolf Hitler.

The same sin of silence is being committed today by Christian pastors in America; those who are willing to watch the evil political powers of our day take over the nation without sounding a word of warning to God’s people.

God showed the prophet Isaiah that the silence of His shepherds was the cause of the evil nations that were advancing against Israel...

Isaiah 56:9-10 NLT

Come, wild animals of the field! Come, wild animals of the forest! Come and devour my people! For (because) the *leaders* of my people—the Lord's *watchmen*, his *shepherds*—are blind and ignorant. They are like *silent watchdogs* that give no warning when danger comes.

Albert Barnes

The prophet here specifies the sins which had induced God to allow the desolating armies of foreign nations. The first sin being the apathy, indifference, and unfaithfulness, which prevailed among God's leaders, His watchmen who were appointed to guard God's interests and defend the cause of truth.

Their enemies came upon them because of the silence of the shepherds.

Here's another translation:

Isaiah 56:10 NKJV

His watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant; *they are all dumb dogs that cannot bark.*

Albert Barnes

Perhaps there was never a more graphic and striking description of a lazy and unfaithful ministry than this. Alas, that it should be too true of multitudes who bear the sacred office, those God appointed to warn their fellow-men of danger!

Albert Barnes

How many ministers come under the description of dumb dogs who cannot bark, and who love to slumber! Some are afraid of giving offence; some have no deep sense of the importance of religious truth, and the actual danger of the ungodly. Nothing will rouse them from the pleasures of sleep, and ease of an inactive life.

With all this in mind, I want to continue our teaching tonight taking the title...

"Watchmen On The Wall"

Today we have weather sirens and home security systems to warn us of danger. But back in Bible days, cities appointed faithful men to stand atop the city walls as watchmen for the welfare of the city. Their job was to sound an alarm whenever they saw an enemy advancing to invade the city.

God Himself says He is the one who calls for the watchmen...

Isaiah 62:6-7

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they must never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

The great Puritan Bible commentator Matthew Henry tells us...

Matthew Henry

Ministers are watchmen on the church's walls, for it (the church) is a besieged city, needing sentinels on the walls, to take notice and give notice of the motions of the enemy. It is necessary that, as watchmen, they be wakeful, and faithful, and willing to endure hardness.

Matthew Henry

They are concerned to stand upon their guard day and night; they must never be off their watch as long as those for whose souls they watch are not out of danger. They must never hold their peace; they must take all opportunities to give warning to sinners, in season, out of season, and must never betray the cause of Christ by a treacherous or cowardly silence.

Last week we looked at 3 ways God's watchmen commit the 'sin of silence':

Sins of Silence

- **On Theology**
- **On the Kingdom of God (the Biblical worldview)**
- **On Government and Politics**

Tonight, I want to look at one more area,,,

II. Watchmen on the Wall

A. The Watchmen's Sin of Silence on the Subject of Sin in the Church

1. There is a passage in the 3rd chapter of Ezekiel that should put the fear of God into every man in the ministry, those God has place as His watchmen on the wall and charged with the responsibility of warning saints and sinners alike on the subject of sin.

2. It begins with the watchman's appointment by God to warn the wicked that they will die in their sins.

Ezekiel 3:17-18

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked of his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; *but his blood I will require at your hand.*

- a. God says to sinners: "You shall surely die".
- b. God says to His watchmen: warn sinners they will die in their sins.
- c. Then comes the part we overlook: If the watchman fails to warn the wicked they will die in their sins, God will hold the watchman accountable!
- d. This does not mean that the watchman will die for the sins of the wicked; but it does mean God will hold the watchman accountable for his silence in warning the wicked.
- e. One wonders what will happen to all the modern ministers today who never even mention the subject of 'sin' in their sermons!

Ezekiel 3:19

Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

f. This is important! God does not hold the watchman responsible for the *result* of his warning to the wicked; if the wicked won't hear the watchman's warning he will die in his sins; but the watchman has delivered his own soul.

g. Ezekiel goes on. The watchman not only has a responsibility to warn the wicked...

3. The watchman has a responsibility to warn the righteous that if he turns away from his righteousness and chooses a life of iniquity he will die in his sins.

Ezekiel 3:20

"Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered but his blood I will require at your hand.

a. This is a 'lose-lose' situation. **If the watchman fails to warn the righteous who fall into sin, the sinner loses his soul and the watchman must answer to God.**

b. The next verse is a 'win-win' situation...

Ezekiel 3:21

"Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also, you will have delivered your soul."

4. God's watchman must not be silent on the subject of sin with the sinner or the saint; both must be warned about the consequences of sin; if the watchmen are silent about sin the church the church will be filled with 'satisfied sinners' who feel no need of repentance.

a. Here I will share my personal testimony on the subject of counterfeit conversions; the unbiblical nature of the so-called 'sinner's prayer'; and the danger of giving false assurance.

5. Let me be clear. We believe those who are truly born again receive eternal life and are safe and secure in Christ. But a faithful watchman on the wall will remind God's people of these warnings:

2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.

2 Corinthians 13:5 AMP

Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it.

One of the reasons we have so many counterfeit Christians in the pews is people today don't know the difference between mental assent and saving faith.

James 2:19-20

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

a. We are saved by faith alone; but true faith is never alone; it is always confirmed by works.

b. The Apostle Peter speaks of making every effort to confirm our faith:

2 Peter 1:5-8 HCSB

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:9-11

The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his past sins. *Therefore, brothers, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble.*

a. Notice we are not called to make every effort to be saved; we are to make every effort to confirm that we are saved!

b. This verse does no violence to the security that salvation brings to our souls; just don't take it for granted; the race isn't over until it's over.

Matthew 10:22

He who endures to the end will be saved.

c. Some say it's unseemly to challenge faithful churchgoers to examine themselves to be sure they are saved; but on the contrary, the watchman must warn the sinner and the supposed saint the same way.

Matthew Henry

Some we deal with appear to be righteous; yet we must warn them not to apostatize and turn away from their righteousness. The best men in the world have need to be warned against apostasy, and to be told of the danger they are in of it and the danger they are in by it.

6. I tell you with a broken heart how many we've seen fall away into sin after years of what appeared to be faithfulness. (Husbands, prophets, pastors) It's not how you start, it's how you finish. Or, will you finish?

7. I want to close with a few very personal thoughts because of the risk I run to be misunderstood by preaching about pastors. The devil may tell you I'm putting myself on a pedestal or being judgmental.

8. But you need to know that everything I have said applies to me. I believe I have a proper fear of God about the ministry He called me to...

C. The Fearful Responsibility of the Watchmen

1. Jesus was gentle toward sinners; He reserved His strongest words for the preachers of His day.

Matthew 23:23-24

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

Matthew 3:7

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

2. The Apostle Paul had harsh words for the Jewish preachers of his day:

Romans 2:17-20

Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

Romans 2:21 -24

You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For as it is written, "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you".

- a. Isn't this the case today? Haven't we seen this in the fall of the so-called 'celebrity pastors'? The 'theologians'?
- b. And how the heathens love it when they fall, using the occasion to 'blaspheme' the name of God.
- c. There's a biblical reason why the ministers are held to a higher standard:

Luke 12:48

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

3. The Apostle James has a very sober warning for those who want to be watchmen of God as pastors or teachers...

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

4. This ties together the two testaments in our teaching tonight: God's watchmen, (prophets, pastors, teachers), are held accountable not only for their own sins, but for faithfully warning sinners and saints of the danger of sin.

a. The Book of Hebrews reminds the people to honor their pastors because of the burden they bear.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.

b. You have no idea how serious I have always taken this.

III. Close

A. Review: Watchmen on the Wall

1. God appoints 'watchmen on the wall' who must not be guilty of the sin of silence:

- **On theology**
- **On the Kingdom (the biblical worldview)**
- **On politics**
- **On the subject of sin**

2. The enemy is upon us; yet many of God's people are asleep; we know we need another 'Great Awakening'; but listen to the words of the great leader of the 1st great awakening, the great evangelist...

George Whitefield

"The Christian world is in a deep sleep; nothing but a loud shout can awaken them out of it. It is high time for Thy ministers, O God, to lift up their voices like a trumpet."

How much more is this true today?

Pastor Shane Idleman

The world is on fire. This may be God's last warning to America. Can America be saved? I am not sure. When the pulpit is silent, all hell breaks loose because there is no confrontation or conviction of sin.

Pastor Shane Idleman

We can change the nation if pastors return to their true calling: To preach the unadulterated Word of God and awaken a spiritually dead culture, not coddle her back to sleep. As many in our culture are brazenly “coming out,” shouldn’t pastors come out and address the issues that are destroying America from the inside out?

Closing Prayer

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