

The Night Watchmen

It is unsettling to see men in full armor with military-grade machine guns standing in front of your hotel. Yet that has been my experience for a few times in my life. Your mind wonders if this is a guerrilla raid, some cartel kidnapping, or a local government attempt to extort finance from you. But then the happy faces and the calm of the local missionary and hotel staff quickly make you realize that all is well; for they are “just the night watchmen!” Thus you need not worry about regional conflicts or the possibility of hostile local or religious aggression. The presence of the night watchman has assured your mind that this is a safe place to find rest.

So too, is the church to people who the spirits of sin have dogged and dismayed. They may first be shocked by the wild worship and frenzy of fiery, forthright preaching, but then there is the calm that sets in as they recognize that “this is a safe place.” Soon, we see them contentedly finding rest in a land that is beset with troubling conflicts as they find a place of repentance and receive the precious gift of the Holy Ghost.

Preacher, you are more than a placeholder and a tithe collector: You are an armed peacemaker, a night watchman! Your assignment is to carve out a safe niche in a region that is overrun by demonic spirits and despotic darkness intent on perpetuating generational and geographical sins and damning souls to hell. God has sent you to create a safe space (a place of refuge) for honest, hungry souls that want out of the rat race of iniquity.

Sure, it will cost you sleepless nights and untold burdens as fear, dread, and confrontation are constantly demanded of you. But your silence and complicity with compromise will cause sin to overrun your church and destroy every man and woman God gave you to keep safe.

So preach the Word, warn Israel of their sins, and be the man who stands in the gap and thwarts hell from wreaking havoc in the church even when you want to quit. And when the night is over, and God calls you home, the gratefulness of weary souls and the pleasure of a beaming God will reward you richly in a place where you can now finally rest: Heaven!

Ezekiel 3:16-21, 27 And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 17) 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. 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. 19) 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. 20) Again, When a righteous *man* doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast 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. 21) 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 hast delivered thy soul... 27) But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that hearth, let him hear and he that forbearth, let him forbear for they are a rebellious house

Watchman: tsâphâh (tsaw-faw') to lean forward, that is, to peer into the distance; by implication to observe, await: - behold, espy, look up (well), wait for, (keep the) watch (-man) - (Strong's H6822).

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