



## Called To Be A Watchman!

In the last couple of posts, we've talked about Israel's "watchmen" as described by the Old Testament prophet, Ezekiel. We talked about how the "spiritual overtones" of the watchmen remind us of our responsibility to be spiritual watchmen to the unbelieving world! We're called to warn the world that their sin has separated them from God; and, they're in grave danger unless they repent & turn to Jesus! The parallels between being a watchman; and, being a disciple-maker, are unmistakable! God gave Old Testament Israel's watchmen a precise message; and, as Jesus' disciple-makers, we've also been given a precise message. To the watchmen, God said: *"When you hear a word from My mouth, give them a warning from Me. If I say to the wicked, 'Wicked one, you will surely die,' but you do not speak out to warn him about his way, that wicked person will die for his iniquity, yet I will hold you responsible for his blood. But if you warn a wicked person to turn from his way and he doesn't turn from it, he will die for his iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now as for you, son of man, say to the house of Israel: You have said this, 'Our transgressions and our sins are heavy on us, and we are wasting away because of them! How then can we survive?' Tell them: As I live"—the declaration of the Lord God—"I take no pleasure in the death*

*of the wicked, but rather that the wicked person should turn from his way and live. Repent, repent of your evil ways! Why will you die, house of Israel?"* Ezekiel 33:7-11. What's the watchman's message? It's "grace," isn't it? It's the message of the Gospel; the Good News that God, *"...takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked..."* If only Israel would *"...repent of their evil ways..."* God asks them, *"Why will you die, house of Israel?"* We've been given the same message to deliver everywhere we go, church! *"The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance"* 2 Peter 3:9. *"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life"* John 3:16. That's our message! Paul wrote the Church of Corinth, *"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, 'Be reconciled to God'"* 2 Corinthians 5:20. We're God's ambassadors, church! We're His watchmen to the world! We're commanded to plead with the world to come to Christ! To share the message that God loves them & welcomes them to repent and be saved! What a great message we have to share with loved ones, neighbors; and, co-workers! He is a good God! *"He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our offenses"* Psalm 103:10 .

## A Notice Of Accountability

Let me make one final point! In the same way that God made Israel's watchmen accountable, He has made us accountable! In v.17 of Ezekiel's 33rd chapter, God confronts Israel over their claim that God wasn't "fair"! In v.20 He says, *"You say, 'The Lord's way isn't fair.' I will judge each of you according to his ways, house of Israel."* I cringe inside every time I hear someone judging God for the way He does things! What arrogance that a puny little man— one of 7 billion on this planet— would dare to call out God for anything! We don't even know what we don't know! *"The Lord is righteous in all His ways and gracious in all His acts"* Psalm 145:17. God is even willing to extend grace to us when we make rash claims against Him— *"I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked,"* God says, *"Why will you die?"* If you're a follower of Christ then you have been served notice! You are accountable for making disciples! Are you doing it?

## "Greeting Team"

### For Sunday, October 10

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go "welcome" people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

## Greeters this week:

### Pastor Terry Monday Night

- 1st— Erickson Thursday PM: Jen Hagler Thursday PM
- 2nd— Terry Embke Monday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Sunday Night; Donna Ehlers Monday Morning
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

## Small Groups @ MBC

*Seek To Balance Worship,  
Study In The Word,  
Fellowship,  
Prayer & Witnessing*

-Guide To: Small Group Ministry @ MBC

## Announcements

1. Looking For A Great Place To Do Bible Study? Checkout [www.preceptaustin.org](http://www.preceptaustin.org)
2. Signed Up For "RightNow Media"? Text "RIGHTNOW MORNINGSIDIBC" to 41411 to sign up!