

BEWARE OF THE DOG

Introduction:

1. In Bible times, dogs were not the friendly pets we think of today.
2. They were usually infested with fleas and disease – looked down on as scavengers.
3. To call someone a dog was to display great contempt or grave insult (Mark 7:25-28; 1 Samuel 17:43; 24:14).
4. Not many things were considered lower than a dog (Deut. 23:18; 1 Kings 14:11; 21:23; Revelation 22:15).
5. Thus, the Bible warns us to beware of the dogs!

I. Beware of Lying Dogs (Philippians 3:1-3)

- A. In this passage, false teachers are referred to as dogs.
- B. These were Judaizers – those who claimed to follow Christ but also demanded obedience to some of the Law of Moses (cf. Ac. 15:1).
- C. Any who try to join man's tradition to God's law are dogs (Matt. 15:7-9).
- D. Christians are to beware of false teachers (2 Peter 2:1-2; 3:17; Jude 3-4).

II. Beware of Silent Dogs (Isaiah 56:10-11)

- A. These dogs are watchmen who fail to warn of impending danger.
- B. Watchmen were not to be silent (62:6)!
 1. Elders must not be silent (Titus 1:7-11).
 2. Preachers must not be silent (Acts 20:20; 2 Timothy 4:2).
 3. Christians must not be silent (Jude 1, 23).
- C. These dogs were greedy – their silence was for sale (cf. John 10:12-13; Phil. 3:19; 1 Pet. 5:2).
- D. Christians must beware of silent watchmen.

III. Beware of Carnal Dogs (Matthew 7:6)

- A. These dogs have no respect for things holy (cf. Proverbs 9:7-8).
- B. Christians must beware of those who reject the Gospel (Matt. 10:7, 13-15)
- C. We must beware of those who love the world (1 John 2:15-17).
 1. Persecution (Matthew 5:11; Psalm 22:16)
 2. Influence (1 Corinthians 15:33-34)

IV. Beware of Lost Dogs (2 Peter 2:20-22)

- A. These dogs have left the truth to return to sin.
- B. This is a disgusting picture in the eyes of God (cf. Proverbs 26:11).
- C. We must beware of their wicked influence (1 Cor. 5:6, 11-13).

Conclusion:

1. Do not live like a dog.
2. Beware of the dogs that will destroy your soul (Revelation 22:15)