

# Elders Are Watchmen

- I. The Need for Watchmen (Ezekiel 34:1-16)
  - A. In Ezekiel's day, the shepherds of Israel had failed as watchmen over the nation.
    - 1. They fed themselves instead of feeding the flock.
    - 2. They failed to help the injured and ill.
    - 3. They forsook those who were lost and separated from the flock.
  - B. As a result, God stated that there were no shepherds!
  - C. In the end, the nation was conquered and taken captive by Babylon.
  - D. The Lord's church is under constant and continual threat of attack from the Devil and his forces of evil.
    - 1. Atheism, humanism
    - 2. Denominationalism, Calvinism, Pentecostalism
    - 3. Worldliness, immorality
  - E. Without shepherds who watch for the flock, congregations will be deceived, scattered, and led astray into the bondage of sin.
  
- II. The Character of Watchmen (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-14)
  - A. There are many qualifications that one must meet to become an elder.
  - B. Several of these emphasize the role of an elder as a watchman.
    - 1. Vigilant (3:2) – "Watchful, attentive, protective; not indifferent"
    - 2. Not a novice (3:6) – Experienced in spiritual matters
    - 3. Lover of good men (1:8) – "Fond of good; promoter of virtue"
    - 4. Exhort and convince gainsayers (1:9) – Able to expose error
  - C. Many others could be mentioned, but these demonstrate how important these qualifications are in selecting elders.
  
- III. The Focus of Watchmen (Acts 20:28-30)
  - A. Elders are to watch themselves.
    - 1. Their own lives (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1 – *blameless, holy, etc.*)
    - 2. Their own families (1 Tim. 3:4; Titus 1:6)
    - 3. The local eldership (Acts 20:30; cf. Matt. 15:14)
  - B. Elders are to watch the flock.
    - 1. The lost and wayward, to bring them back (Luke 15:4-7)
    - 2. The unlearned and ignorant, to teach them (1 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:12-14)
    - 3. The gainsayers, to correct them (Titus 1:9)
    - 4. The faithful, to encourage and exhort them (Heb. 3:13)
    - 5. The flock – for it was purchased with the blood of Jesus!
  - C. Elders are to watch the brotherhood (Titus 1:10-11).
    - 1. Not with authority over other congregations
    - 2. But, to know what is being taught and practiced

3. And, to know who is teaching truth or error
  4. Also, to set an example before them
- D. Elders are to watch the world.
1. Not with authority over it
  2. But, to know what is happening and how it will influence and affect the church
- E. What a tremendous responsibility is carried by elders of the Lord's church.
- F. Truly, they are worthy of honor (1 Tim. 5:17) and the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4)!