



CrossRoads Notes:

Title: A Watchman's Vision

Theme: Biblically Achieving Our Call

Topic: Biblically Understanding CrossRoad's Vision

“Stand at the crossroads and look... ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. I have appointed watchmen over you and said, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet.’” (Jeremiah 6:16 NIV)

Introduction: *At this time in Biblical history, Judah was in danger of destruction because she had strayed from the ways of God. Therefore, the Lord raised up a prophet of God to admonish the people and gave them instructions on how to walk in a manner worthy of the people of God. The New Testament has a warning of a destruction for all who do not desire the ways of God, destruction that affects the life and soul of mankind. (Romans 1:18-32)*

Proposition: *I would propose to you that in a world bound in the modern day wrath of God, there is a call upon the church to become aggressive in her fight for the souls of mankind.*

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what is our purpose at CrossRoads Church? Just what is our call? What is our belief based on?*

Transitional Sentence: *The first step to enjoying God's will for us in the “Great Commission” is to grasp our purpose. (Jeremiah 6:17; Hosea 9:8)*

The concept of prophet as a watchman is found throughout the counsel of God's word. “Prophet” (*nabiy*) here is an inspired spokesman who is raised up by the Lord to proclaim the message from God who does not contradict the law of the Lord or one who speaks from his own mind or heart. (The Complete Word Study) Thus, a prophet is a spokesman for the Lord and one who speaks under God's authority. (Exodus 7:1; Easton's Bible Dictionary; Harper's Bible Dictionary) The whole Word of God as it was written by men who received the revelation from God (2 Peter 1:20-21) communicates the Lord's mind and will to men. Anyone who is a spokesman for the Lord, preaching the Word of God is thus exercising the grace gift of prophecy for the purpose of proclaiming divine truths to mankind. (Easton's Bible Dictionary; Harper's Bible Dictionary)

In the New Testament the prophetic office is continued. (Luke 4:2; 13:33; 24:19; Matthew 13:57; 21:11; John 4:19; 9:17; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:26-32; Ephesians 2:20; 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:20; Acts 11:27; 13:1; 15:32; James 5:10; Harper's Bible Dictionary; Easton's Bible Dictionary) The Body of Christ who understands her purpose and call will have someone in their congregation who has the grace gift of “prophet” as mentioned in Ephesians 4:11. “Prophet” (*prophetes*) here generally refers to those who have the Holy Spirit gift of speaking the heart and will of God to mankind. (The Complete Dictionary of the New Testament; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) Men or women

exercising this gift have a healthy walk with the Lord and they are sent by Him to warn, correct and exhort people. It has been said of these Christians, "They love God and disturb people." (Donald A. Leggett)

"Watchman" (*sapah*) in practical application is to have someone stand guard. When applied to the duty of being a watchful prophet with Jesus Christ in this dispensation, it is having a spokesman who is proclaiming the truths of God to a people who are being overcome by sins that feed the flesh, that embrace a world view and listen to Satan's lies.

Those who are called of the Lord to exercise this gift are very much illuminated with the same exhortation that was given to Ezekiel, (Ezekiel 33:7-11) Taylor in his teachings on the duty of the watchful prophet writes, "A dying person unwarned would be regarded as a murder victim. The murderer would be the watchman who failed his duty." The purpose of the watchmen today is to be out proclaiming the Word of the Lord publicly, give a warning call of God's wrath, God having surrendered mankind over to themselves, just as warned in Romans 1, 18-32.

Transitional Sentence: *Once the church has grasped her purpose she is to fulfill her call by proclaiming the Word of the Lord.* (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

The Apostle Paul's charge to Timothy was not to preach *about* the Bible, but to proclaim or herald the Word of God. To preach (*kerusso*) means to publicly announce, to publish abroad religious truth, the gospel with its attendant privileges and obligations in this gospel dispensation. The herald is to proclaim in such a way as to persuade, urge, warn and intrigue people to comply to the message. (Dictionary of Biblical Languages; The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament)

There is a Biblical term, "man of God." It has been reduced to someone who is religious or has regular church attendance. However, Biblically the term "man of God" refers to God's spokesman, often referring to men exercising the gift, prophet, evangelist, apostle, pastor or teacher. Our key text in this division of the message was written to the young pastor Timothy, whom Paul accredited the term "man of God." (1 Timothy 6:11) This term is given to the person who represents God by speaking His Word. In 1 Timothy 6:11-14 the Apostle Paul lists four marks of the "man of God," one being a man or women who is faithful to fulfill the responsibility of their charge or calling. (Rediscovering Expository Preaching, John MacArthur)

"Preach the Word." The one who proclaims God's Word in this ministry that reaches out to those in this world, must be overseen by men or women of God who are Holy Spirit illuminated with (1 Timothy 4:13-15)

Transitional Sentence: *Those who prove faithful and unashamedly preach the Word do so because they have a firm belief in the foundation of what they preach.* (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrew 4:12)

Timothy was about to face false teachers and a people who no longer wanted to hear truth. Therefore, Timothy needed assurance and exhortation so as to not fade from his charge. Thus the Apostle Paul reminded the young pastor that all Scripture is God-breathed (*theopneustos*), that is, God's words were given through men superintended by the Holy Spirit so that their writings are without error.

The Book of Hebrews tells us the Word is living and active (*energes*) meaning energizing (Thru the Bible) having vital power in itself and exerting the same to the human soul. (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon) Paul is also teaching us that man's thoughts cannot be kept to himself once he has been exposed to God's Word. What mankind holds secret is brought to the surface before the Lord as he reads or hears the spoken word of God. (The Expositors Bible Commentary; Matthew Henry Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; New Bible Commentary)

Faith comes by people hearing the message of God's Word concerning Christ. (Romans 10: 17) As God's Word goes out to the public, it will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it. (Isaiah 55:11) The word of God will either harden unto death or it will soften unto salvation bringing knowledge of and enjoyment in the will of God.

Transitional Sentence: *Watchful Prophets are confident in their work with the Lord and have full understanding of the results of planting God's Word.* (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

Although most people will reject the message, there is that heart out there that receives it and not every heart will produce the same amount of harvest, nor is the harvest the same in every person. Some seeds will produce harvesters being used of God to bring others to Christ. (Romans 1:13) Some of the harvesters will give to the Lord's work. (Romans 15:25-29) Other seeds produce good works and those able to grow in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:10) Some seeds enable others to grow tremendously in Christ-like character (Galatians 5:22-23) and there will be those who will whole heartedly offer praise to God. (Hebrews 13:15) (Matthew Henry Commentary; The Bible Exposition Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary)

Transitional Sentence: *Watchful prophets proclaim like Christ did planting the seeds of God's Word on every heart and they express a faith based on God's Word.* Every faithful servant of the Lord who takes the gospel out to lost souls rests upon the promise found in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Here we see the empowerment that is going to enable the Body of Christ to take the gospel of Jesus to lost souls around the world. Without the Holy Spirit's leading there is no vision from God on what to do, there is no enabling to achieve the task set before us, and mankind is not drawn to hear the message.

The heart of anyone who is a watchman, proclaiming the message of the Lord in this sin-trodden world rests upon the promise found in (1 Corinthians 15:58)

The Apostle Paul did as he often does, suddenly he moves from theology and makes a challenge; suddenly the Holy Spirit speaks through God's anointed to address the practicality in ministry so that we might stay steadfast in our callings. (The Daily Study Bible Series) Here we have the assurance that as surely as Christ is risen from the dead, Christians shall rise and be fully rewarded for their labors with the Lord. This will be fully enjoyed at the judgment seat of Christ. The challenge of the Holy Spirit to us is that we remain faithful and serve with an expectation that God is going to reward our labors with Christ! (Matthew Henry Commentary; New Bible Commentary; Commentary, Critical and Explanatory)

In Closing: *The Word of God holds a truth or principle that lays deep in the heart of our CrossRoads Articles ministry which, I believe should govern all ministry opportunities.* (1 Thessalonians 5:12) To “know” (*aida*) generally means to know instinctively, (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament) to have intimate or close relationship with or have knowledge of the work someone is doing for the Lord. (Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) In regard to CrossRoads, you should possess information about and have knowledge of the high status of this ministry. (Dictionary of Biblical Languages) Christians are to be able to take note of this work and identify the works of this ministry. (The New American Commentary) To “partner” with someone in ministry means to have fellowship, to be a partaker in common experience in the work of the Lord. (The Complete Word Study; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) Therefore, quality ministries will make every effort to communicate, share vision, battles, successes and most importantly, prayer needs to all who desire to oversee the Lord's work in a Biblical manner.

Many of you have heard the story of “Mutiny on the Bounty.” In brief it is the story about men who were sent off on a British ship, bound for the South Seas. The idea was to plant fruit-bearing trees and do other things to make the Islands more habitable. When the job was completed the order to embark was given, however, the men formed strong attachments to the ladies and the climate. The result was “Mutiny on the Bounty.” Captain Bligh and a few loyal men were set adrift and in an almost miraculous fashion, Captain Bligh survived the ordeal and made it back to London to tell the story. An expedition was launched and fourteen men paid the penalty of mutiny under British law. Keith Miller, in “Edge of Adventure,” shares a story only a few have heard about. He shares how the Bible played a very vital part in that historical event. He writes:

“Nine of the men (the mutineers) had gone to another Island. They formed a colony. Perhaps there has never been a more degraded and debouched social life than that colony. ...Whiskey and other [sins] led to their ruin. Disease and murder took the lives of all the native men, only one white man survived, Alexander Smith. He found a Bible and started reading it, he believed and began to appropriate it into his life. He taught it to the children and women.” According to the story by the time they were found, people lived in decency, prosperity and harmony. No crime, disease, immorality.” God honored His Word among them. (Swindoll, The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart)

