

## Watchmen Needed

*“So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.”—Ezekiel 33:7*

The Bible uses many metaphors for the Christian. We are referred to as salt, light, and soldiers. The use of the word watchman is a spiritual analogy. In Bible times a watchman on the city wall would lookout for approaching enemies. They were to stay awake so that they could spot evil approaching. They were vigilant to warn the residents so that they could defend themselves.

As watchmen, we are to *“Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (I Peter 5:8). We are not only to be watchful to defend ourselves, but we are to warn others.

Ezekiel 3 tells us that if we do not warn the wicked, their blood will be on our hands. If we warn the wicked and they die in their iniquity, we are not guilty. This does not just apply to warning the unsaved. The passage goes on to state that if a righteous man stumbles and we do not warn him, his blood is on our hands.

The passage in Ezekiel makes it clear that we are to sound the warning as the watchman on the wall sounded the warning when danger was approaching. It also makes clear that we are not responsible for the outcome of that warning. *“He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse for they are a rebellious house”* (Ezekiel 3: 27).

*I have set watchmen on your walls,  
O Jerusalem;  
They shall never hold their peace  
day or night.  
You who make mention of the  
LORD, do not keep silent.  
—Isaiah 62: 6*