

“The Watchman and the Shepherds” (Part 1)
Ezekiel 33:1-20

“The goal of reading God’s Word is to feel what the author wants you to feel and to understand what the author wants you to understand.”

*“Therefore I testify to you this day that I am **innocent of the blood of all**, for I did not shrink from declaring to you **the whole counsel of God**.” (Acts 20:26-27). **“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when **people will not endure sound teaching**....”** (2 Timothy 4:2-3a)*

*“His (Israel’s) watchmen **are blind**; they **are all without knowledge**; they **are silent** dogs; they cannot bark, dreaming, lying down, **loving to slumber**....But they are shepherds who have **no understanding**; they have all turned to their own way, **each to his own gain**, one and all.”* (Isaiah 56:10-11)

- *Ezekiel’s Call as a Watchman: (Ezekiel 3:17)*
 - (3:4) “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and **speak with My words to them**.”
 - (3:7) “But the house of Israel will not be willing to **listen to you**, for they are not willing to **listen to Me**.”
 - (3:17) “Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, **you shall give them warning from Me**.”
 - (3:21) “You will have **delivered your soul**.” (by delivering the message)

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.” (Ezekiel 18:30-32; cf. Matthew 3:2,8; 4:17; Acts 26:20)

- *Ezekiel’s Responsibility as a Watchman: (Ezekiel 33:1-9)*
 - **The Calling of the Watchman:** (33:2) “The people of the land take a man among them.” (33:7) “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel.”
 - **He warns or doesn’t warn:** (33:4) “If he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people.” (33:7) “Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me.”
 - **He is responsible for the warning, not the response to the warning:**
 - If they listen they will save themselves; if they do not listen they will die! (33:5,8)
 - If he does not warn them, he is responsible for that person’s death (33:6,8)
- *Israel’s Response to the Watchman: (Ezekiel 33:10-20)*
 - **Regret:** Wondering why I did something or handled something a certain way and wishing I didn’t do it.

Continued →

Worship: Christ the Solid Rock — Norton Hall Band

All Creatures — Kings Kaleidoscope

Service Times: Sundays: Sunday School 9/Prayer 9:45a/Church 10:30a; Tuesdays: Bible Study — Women 6:30p/Men 7p; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20p/Church 7p

- **Remorse:** It is a feeling of disgust, shame, and pain over my behavior, but with no willingness or desire to change that behavior.
- **Repentance:** This is a change of mind about sin, a hatred of our sin, and a turning away from our sin. There is a willingness and a desire to stop sinning and live a holy life.
- Our righteous deeds cannot remove the guilt of our sinfulness (33:12-13), and our sinfulness does not keep us from God's grace and mercy if we approach Him in repentance (33:14-16).
- When we are caught in our sin we naturally want to blame someone for our actions as opposed to humbly coming before God in repentance (33:17-20).