Watchman on the Wall
Ezekiel 3:16-27

There are those who say “America is finished. As a nation we have turned our back on God. We have kicked Him out of our schools and out of the public arena. We have declared Him to be off limits.

I recently read Saul Alinsky’s book *Rules for Radicals*; it has had a tremendous influence on our educational system and on some of our politicians; even the Roman Catholic Church has blamed Alinsky, a Jewish-agnostic, for corrupting the Church with leftist progressive ideology that has permeated the Vatican to this day.

Alinsky espoused a Marxist-socialist agenda that takes from the Haves and gives to the Have-Nots; we call it “wealth redistribution;” his overall objective was government control of the people; he had 8 levels of control, one being religion: remove belief in God from the government and from our schools; Alinsky has much to do with the moral decline of our nation.

Alinsky merely simplified Vladimir Lenin’s original scheme for world conquest by communism under Russian rule; Stalin described his converts as “Useful idiots;” these “useful idiots” have destroyed the spiritual and moral fiber of every nation in which they have seized power.

God called Ezekiel to be a watchman over Israel; God is calling His Church to be watchmen over a progressive leftism that seeks to dramatically change our nation.

The Responsibility of a Watchman (3:16-21)

The work of a watchman (3: 16-17)... Ancient cities had watchmen stationed on the wall or on a high tower to sound a warning if an enemy approached (2 Kings 9:17; Ezekiel 33:2-3); Israel’s prophets saw themselves as watchmen warning the nation of God’s approaching judgment if the people did not repent; vineyards and fields also had watchmen especially during harvest time.
Twice God calls Ezekiel to be a watchman; first, as a spiritual watchman to point out the sin of a stubborn and rebellious nation that refused to listen to God (3:17); second, as a warning watchman to let the people know that the judgment of God was coming in the form of a sword (33:1-7); a watchman could warn the people by blowing the trumpet of *shofar* when he saw danger; Ezekiel is called to figuratively blow the trumpet on the sin and idolatry of the people and remind them that judgment is coming.

Watchmen are not always popular; Churchill was ostracized and thought of as a fool by the British Parliament when he told them that Hitler was rearming Germany and would pose a threat to Europe and to Great Britain; Ezekiel was not popular among the captives in Tel Abib.

**The word of the watchman (3:17b)**... He is told to hear the word from God’s mouth; 50 times God says this to Ezekiel; God spoke directly to Ezekiel more than to any other prophet; we as the Church --- as individual believers---need to hear a word from the Lord so we know what to say to our rebellious nation that has turned against God; we don’t need special revelation; He has already spoken through His Word (I will share what I observed as happening to our nation).

The questions are: Where are the watchmen? Who is listening to God? Who is blowing the trumpet?

**The warning to Israel (3:17c)**... God first warns, then He brings judgment (2 Peter 3:9); the consequences of our nation rebelling against God are woeful (I will make note of a few).

As a nation we have become desensitized to sin to the point where there is no shame (Jeremiah 6:15).

**The wisdom for the believer (3:18-21)**... Ezekiel was a watchman for all the house of Israel; the entire nation was on his shoulders; now God gets more personal as He speaks to each individual of the exile.

Ezekiel has **a message of authority**... The wicked will die if they do not repent of their wickedness; the righteous man who turns away from their righteous ways and does that which is wicked will die in their wickedness and their righteousness deeds will not even be remembered; only those who continue to do what is right will live.
What does this say about losing your salvation? There is a difference between “righteousness” and “justification;” the OT Law was based on righteous obedience to the Law (Leviticus 18:5); to be righteous means to be continually obedient; the NT which God made through Christ is based on justification (Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9); this is a continual keeping with absolute assurance wherein God declares us blameless because of Christ’s sacrifice; when we are justified we are continually viewed by God as though we never sinned; to personalize it: to be justified means I am viewed by God “just-as-if -I’d” never sinned at all.

This, however, does not mean that one can turn away from his faith and still be saved (Hebrews 6:4-6); Jesus said those who are saved must endure to the end (Matthew 10:22); the Christian life is a marathon not a sprint; since God is an all knowing God, He knows those who will fall away and those who will remain faithful; He knows those who will “fall from grace” (Galatians 5:4) and those who are truly committed to Him (John 10:27-30); therefore, it is “once saved always saved,” but not “once in grace always in grace.”

Ezekiel’s message was one of righteousness and keeping the works of the Law; if one starts out right, but ends up doing unrepentant evil, he will not live.

Ezekiel has a message of accountability (3:20)... The responsibility of a prophet is serious and enormous as he is accountable before God for what he says (see James 3:1; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5).

The worship of the watchman (3:22-23)... Again we find Ezekiel falling on his face before God as a sign of reverence and respect.

The Restraining of the Watchman (3:24-27)

The captivity of Ezekiel as a watchman (3:24-25)... The first command given to Ezekiel is to lock himself in his house; at first he was to conduct his ministry from his house; the elders of Judah would come there to receive a word from the Lord (8:1; 14:1; 20:1)
The cleaving of Ezekiel's tongue to the roof of his mouth (3:26)... For a time God wanted Ezekiel to say nothing; when God say “Be silent” He is angry and judgment is about to fall (see Zechariah 2:13).

The communication by Ezekiel only when God speaks to him (3:27)... Ezekiel was to speak only when God opened His mouth; when he did he was to speak was it to a rebellious house;” otherwise, say nothing.

The cause for being a watchman (3:17).... Ezekiel was called to be a watchman over the house of Israel; what we need today are watchmen over the United States and over the Church; we need watchmen in our pulpits, from church leaders, from Christian believers like you and me who are concerned about the spiritual and moral decline in our nation; we do this by speaking out; by writing our congressmen; by being active lawful protesters, and above all by praying that God will turn the hearts of this nation back to Him.

Secular progressivism has frayed the moral the moral fabric of our nation; secularism is a religion without morals; we must be watchmen by warning the people of the ever present dangers of a Marxist-Alinsky anti-God, anti-Christian, anti-Bible, anti-moral philosophies that seeks to undermine all that we as Christians and Americans represent.

Will you speak up? In the words of German pastor and Nazi Concentration Camp survivor Martin Niemoller, “First they came for the socialists, but I did not speak out---because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, but I did not speak out---because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, but I did not speak out---because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me---but there was no one left to speak for me.”