

Protect God's Holiness & His Holy Name

What made Ezekiel a great watchman; he was a watchman before he was called. He was dedicated to God and His ways, long before he was called. He didn't get called and then decided I better follow God.

Spiritual watchmen must first know the truth to keep other safe from deceptive lies. Too often I think we really don't have an understanding of what holiness is.

Maybe we say, it's to be set apart, but nope that is not it. God said, "Be holy as I am holy". Holiness is this, knowledge of the truth (God's teaching) and adherence to it.

Ezekiel 44:9 - "So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: No foreigners, including those who live among the people of Israel, will enter my sanctuary if they have not been circumcised and have not surrendered themselves to the Lord.

You cannot protect God's holiness until you have surrendered to God's holiness.

This is what a watchman will do, make sure God's standards are lived up to and not be like the priest in Ezekiel's day that forsook all truth.

Holiness is not just a church thing; it starts as a personal commitment.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - ¹⁶ Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

2 Corinthians 6:16 - ¹⁶ And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God and they will be my people.

The church cannot have God's glory and manifest presence if the people in the church do not have it. We must be the standard-bearers for holiness.

It is not the person with dirty jeans that is unholy, but the one who claims to be righteous and has unclean hands and an unclean heart.

We must make sure we raise ourselves to God's standards and not lower ourselves or the church to man's standards.

"The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshiping men. This she has not done deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic. – A.W. Tozer

"Religion today is not transforming people; rather it is being transformed by the people. It is not raising the moral level of society; it is descending to society's own level, and congratulating itself that it has scored a victory because society is smilingly accepting its surrender." – A.W. Tozer

Protect God's Word

The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible. – D.L. Moody

To be a transformative church you must first be a transformed church

To be a transformed church you must first be a transformed Christian

We are transformed as Christians, who then transform their church, which in turn transforms the family, friends and community

Without a transformative knowledge of the Bible, we will never truly live out the Great Commission or the Great Commandment

But this transformative knowledge is our protection against the false teachers and false doctrines that are coming and have come

Ephesians 4:11-15 - ¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever, they

sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

We must be those who will speak truth, always, but know this; the Bible offends.

We must be those who will say what people need to hear and not simply what people want to hear.

We must search out those who are 2 Timothy 4 men and become ourselves 2 Timothy 4 men. I am calling on and commissioning you to seek out and become those men!

1 Timothy 4:1-4 - I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: ² Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. ³ For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

As we transformed by the Holy Spirit and His Word, we will then become the vanguard and protector of God's truth and God's people

The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian. – A.W. Tozer

Good teaching and protection from bad teaching starts in the home

2 Timothy 1:5 - ⁵ I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.

2 Timothy 3:14 - ¹⁴ But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.

Protect God's Sheep

Here is the crux of the matter: We cannot protect God's house if we are not protecting our own house. Which is why this last and not first.

Without adhering to the first two edicts, you and I will never truly adhere to the last one of protecting God's people.

People do not want as much protection as they may think they do or say they do.

Protecting people means that we do not let them, as much as in our power, to do what they want.

I can easily keep a false teacher out of my church; it becomes harder for me to keep them out of someone's life or home.

Sheep wander aimlessly if they are not watched, trained and corrected.

Protection requires vigilance.

Please understand, religious people can do the first two, but only a loving heart can do the last. I am not saying they would do the first entirely correct, but they would come close.

2 Timothy 3:14-16 - ¹⁴ But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. ¹⁵ You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

As men of God, we must protect people from themselves. You and I must be willing to be disliked, even in our own church and our own home.