



## “Every Christian’s Responsibility” (Ezekiel 33:1-20)

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### THE TEXT

vv.1-11 God is not willing that any should perish.

vv.12-16 The simple summary of this section is that once someone repents, perseverance in repentance is proof of the sincerity of their repentance. The NT agrees with this truth.

vv.17-20 These people had issues with God’s ways, and all he was doing through Ezekiel is trying to get them to see that the problem was not with *Him* but with *them*.

- Prov.19:3 A man’s own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord.

### LESSONS

#### A. God Has Called All Christians To Be Watchmen

- The apostle Paul knew this passage well. There is no doubt he was thinking of it when he made an incredible statement recorded for us in the book of Acts.
- Acts 20: 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

#### B. Why Do So Many Christians Fail In This Calling?

1. Some may not truly be saved.

- See II Cor.5:14-21

2. Fear

a. What it might cost us

b. Of their response

- Complacent (II Peter 3:1-7); Airplane stewards

- Combative

3. We feel it's somebody else's responsibility.

- Isn't that the job of an evangelist? (cop out)
- I'll invite them to church, and let the preacher warn them. This not only ignores our specific commission from Jesus Himself, but it limits the warning to only people we can get to come to church. And what if we get them to visit the church, and the message that week is not at all a warning of future judgment?
- See Gen.4: 8-10.

4. We are not well equipped (See Col.4:4).

C. Practical Advice For Faithful Watchmen

1. The basic essential is the gospel of Jesus Christ (I Cor.15:3-4).

2. Always pray for an open door (Col.4:3).

3. Be led of the Spirit.

- Ray Comfort email. Sometimes the moral law should be given (Rom.3:20). But note with me, the Bible teaches that, even apart from law, man's conscience is defiled. So it is not necessary to always share the written moral law in order to lead someone to Christ (See Rom.2:15). Who told Adam and Even that they were naked? Their conscience.
- There's not a consistent pattern in the NT of exactly how to share the gospel. Thief on the cross, Philippian jailer, woman at the well, woman caught in adultery, Paul kings and governors, Philemon, believers in Caesar's household, Phillip and the eunuch, etc.
- The message never changes (death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ). Situations vary greatly.

4. Never be aggressive (II Timothy 2:24-25; I Peter 3:15).

5. Remember that lifestyle speaks louder than words (Titus 2:10).

6. Memorize and familiarize yourself with important Scriptures.

- Great Scriptures to memorize: John 3:16; Rom.3:23; 6:23; 10:9; Rev.3:20; Heb.9:27.
- Great Scriptures to be familiar with: Rev.20:11-15.