



BE PREPARED

This week the final report of the 9/11 commission was released. You can buy this document in book form, or those who have access to the Internet can get the document from <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/911/>. Also I have provided a couple links on this site.

Local Link:

<http://lrcressy.com/church/sermons/2004/911fullreport.pdf>

CDROM Image with PDF file:

<http://lrcressy.com/church/sermons/2004/911.iso>

While reading this report I saw that the United States was totally unprepared for this type of attack. Even today, I feel that the security is more of a political game with the politicians than implementing real security measures. Even the agencies of the government who were supposed to know what is going on got their news of the events on September 11, 2001 from CNN.

Most federal agencies learned about the crash in New York from CNN. Within the FAA, the administrator, Jane Garvey, and her acting deputy, Monte Belger, had not been told of a confirmed hijacking before they learned from television that a plane had crashed. Others in the agency were aware of it, as we explained earlier in this chapter.¹

With all of the warnings that were available to

¹ 9/11 Commission, The 9/11 Commission Report, "Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States," OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT EDITION (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2004), p.35.

the US Government, they were totally unprepared for the attacks on September 11, 2001. One radio commentator stated that the report read like a Tom Clancy novel. The various agencies did not realize the significance of the attack or how to cope with it.

All government agencies are supposed to be prepared for all contingencies, along with coordination between other agencies. This level of watchfulness is important to all individuals. The Christian needs to be continuously vigilant against all of the wiles of the devil. We need to be on guard!

Isaiah 21:11-12

11 The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?

12 The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.

The Christian needs to be watching and be prepared against all of the evils that are against the followers of Jesus Christ. We need to be constantly inquiring, "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?" Are you prepared for an attack against Christians where the enemy sets out to kill you for your faith? These terrorists want to see the destruction of all Christians, and are willing to die in the effort to eradicate Christianity from the face of the earth.

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When Jesus commissioned his disciples, he warned them to be on guard and watchful.

Matthew 10:16-28

16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

26 Fear them not therefore: for there is noth-

ing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

“Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?” Jesus told his disciples that he was sending them out among wolves who were seeking to devour them. He told them of all of the evil that will happen to them and that they are to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. This is true for all followers of Christ. We need to be vigilant and aware.

Many Christians think that they do need to worry to much about security and when they are attacked they find themselves in the same horrible condition that the United States found itself in on September 11, 2001. The ones who were entrusted with national security were caught unaware of the grave danger facing America.

As we are getting closer and closer to the rise of the antichrist, it is imperative for the Christian to be on the watch. We need to sharpen our security and be prepared. You know that you need to lock your door to keep the thief out. You do not need to understand how the lock works in order to lock the door. There are far more dangers and hazards with the Internet and the computer. You need to understand that you need to have the latest version of the anti-virus program of your choice running with the latest updates.

Some time ago, a friend of ours had her credit card accounts stolen by her daughter's

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boyfriend. This was done when the boyfriend was sitting at the computer and noticed a Quicken icon. Needless to say he got the credit card account numbers from the Quicken program and went to the mall on a shopping spree. The default install of Microsoft Windows does not enforce password login along with file permissions. On the other hand, all variants of UNIX like Linux, OsX, BSD, and others have a comprehensive system of file permissions that you can use to lock the system.

We need to know our enemy along with our vulnerabilities. This is being wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We need a strong defense against the enemy.

Matthew 24:43

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

We may not know at what hour the thief is coming, but we do know that the signs of the times are pointing to the present. We also know that in the last days perilous times will come. We are living in the time that the Bible tells us about. Can you imagine that just 25 years ago there was no Internet, and only a few people were thinking about a world wide network.

Now the whole world is connected by the Internet. When Rita and I were in the Army, back in the mid 70's a mag card word processor was larger than a full tower case and did only rudimentary word processing. A multi-column document was beyond its capabilities like this one. Also graphics were impossible on the mag card.

Today, our shopping, commerce, banking, and almost every other phase of our life is influenced by the Internet. This new technology is even used by the church for spreading the gospel like this sermon. With all of the dependency upon computers and the Internet, the Christian needs to be prepared for the attack by the antichrist. This attack is coming, and we need to be prepared and ready to defend ourselves when the attack comes.

Jesus wants his followers to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We need to have our defenses fortified! "Watchman, what of the night?" Are you prepared for the onslaught by the antichrist? Are you ready should there come an edict declaring that all Christians are to be executed? This is coming by the same ones who attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. Are you ready? Is your armor shined?

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

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16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, where-with ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

It always gets darker before the dawn. We are headed for some really dark days before the Lord calls his church home. Are you prepared for the day when there will be open war against the Christian? Are you prepared for the day when it will be illegal to be a Christian? Before Christ calls his church home, there will be open warfare against those who believe in Jesus Christ just like in the first century church.

After the darkest portion of the night, morning

comes with a fresh outlook on life. The morning is coming when Jesus sounds the trumpet for us to rise to meet him in the sky.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Oh, what a glorious day that morning will be when we will see the fruit of our labor.

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Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
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