



"I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem..." Isaiah 62:6

The

WATCHMAN

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WATCHMAN

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AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Holy boldness honors the gospel. In the olden times, when Oriental despots had things pretty much their own way, they expected all ambassadors from the West to lay their mouths in the dust if permitted to appear before his Celestial Brightness, the Brother of the Sun and Cousin of the Moon. Certain money-loving traders agreed to all this, and ate dust as readily as reptiles. But when England sent her ambassadors abroad, the daring islanders stood bolt-upright. They were told that they could not be indulged with a vision of the Brother of the Sun and Cousin of the Moon without going to their hands and knees. "Very well," said the Englishmen, "we will dispense with the luxury, but tell his Celestial Splendor that it is very likely that his Serenity will hear our cannon at his palace gates before long, and that their booming is not quite so harmless as the cooing of his Sublimity's doves." When it was seen that ambassadors of the English Crown were no cringing petitioners, the British Empire rose in respect of Oriental nations.

It must be just so with the cross of Christ. Our cowardice has subjected the gospel to contempt. To preach the gospel boldly is to deliver it as such a message out to be delivered.

C.H. Spurgeon, *Feathers for Arrows*, p. 23

RELEVANT PREACHING

"If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the word of God except precisely that little point which the world and the Devil are at that point attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is tested. To be steady in all the battlefields besides is mere flight and disgrace, if the soldier flinches at that one point."

Martin Luther

A preacher once confided to his head deacon that he was troubled by how few of the church members showed up for any given service. The deacon, a faithful farmhand who never missed a service, reflected on the years he had listened to his preacher's long winded sermons and then replied: "Well, Preacher, if you pour only water into the feeding trough, the hogs don't come around to feed too often."