

Called To Be Watchmen

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By:

William Pratt

Guest Writer

Acts 16:16-18

16 And it came to pass as we were going to prayer that a certain female slave, having a spirit of Python, met us, who brought much profit to her masters by prophesying.

17 She, having followed Paul and us, cried saying, These men are bondmen of the Most High God, who announce to you [the] way of salvation.

18 And this she did many days. And Paul, being distressed, turned, and said to the spirit, I enjoin thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out the same hour.

(DARBY Translation)

This incident occurred in Philippi where a new church was growing. Why would the Holy Spirit inform Paul of this slave girl's demonization, since she was citing truth.

The evil spirit immediately recognized Paul and his party as bearers of the true message of God. But, instead of denouncing them vehemently, Satan used a different tactic. Why not identify the religion of the oracles with that of Christianity? This would cause confusion and mislead the people to believe that Christianity and the heathen gods of Greece were related and compatible.

Because of Paul's ability to discern and deal with the serpent's subtle attempt to steal the early harvest in Europe, a great church in Philippi was planted. It is interesting to note that the demon's name was Python, the name of a serpent. (I chose the Darby translation because it used the actual name of the demon cited in the Greek Septuagint.)

Although, because of Paul's intimacy with the Holy Spirit, the demon was identified and rebuked, the strategy of Satan was to no effect. Not so throughout the centuries of church growth when the church actually introduced unholy doctrines. For instance, we have only one intercessor between God and man, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5). No, Mary is not an intercessor, neither is any saint. Good works cannot save you. No church doctrine can save you. The only savior is Jesus Christ, and salvation comes through faith in Him and NO OTHER WAY. (John 14:6-7).

Today there are church leaders that accept New Age ideas of human sexuality and transgenderisms as well as degrading some races and uplifting others which is in conflict with God's Word. This is the Python spirit at work again and again: winning against the Truth because no one is acting the role of Watchman like Paul did.

The role of a seasoned watchmen is to receive and act upon alerts from the Holy Spirit that certain messengers are not to be trusted. They must KNOW WITHOUT DOUBT and without any concrete evidence when lies and half-truths are presented. They must KNOW the ultimate truth of Romans 12:2 *² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

The watchmen must also be able to discern how messengers bend the truth so that it appears to fit into the world's pattern, WHICH IS NOT GOD'S WILL.

It is the keen duty of all true Christians to be Watchmen on the wall to listen to and follow any message from the Holy Spirit concerning any false message that comes from church offices or the pulpit.