

Reading: [Acts 20:28–31](#)

Summer Solstice Let Us Watch

Introduction

- I heard a story about a woman watching the news. Someone was driving on the wrong way down the interstate. She was concerned because her husband took that highway to and from work every day, so, she called him on his cell phone.

“Honey, there’s someone driving the wrong way on the highway so be watchful.”

He replied in a panic, “You don’t understand just how bad it is. The truth is there’s hundreds of people driving the wrong way!”

- Today’s lesson is something on that order, we need to pay attention!
- [1 Thess. 5:5-6](#) You are all **sons of light** and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore, **let us not sleep**, as others *do*, but **let us watch** and be sober.
- This is obviously more than being a spectator.
 - We could consider the idea of a soldier on watch during war
 - When walking down a trail and watching out for snakes
 - When bad weather comes, we shelter from tornadoes,
 - The whole idea is being on alert, always prepared for danger

How do we do this?

1. Listen To The Warnings

- When we’re on the road and we hear a siren, we look to see where it is so we can give clear passage to police or emergency vehicles.
- When we’re in bad weather and the community siren sounds, we take cover because there’s a tornado coming.
- When we read the word of God, it tells us we are in danger spiritually

[1 Peter 5:8](#) Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

[Acts 20:28–31](#) Therefore **take heed** to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore **watch**, and **remember** that for three years I did not cease to **warn** everyone night and day with tears.

- It’s not a literal lion, or a wolf—It’s false teachings, or temptations.
- We may like the teaching or the temptation, but it’s dangerous
- This lie leads us away from God. This sin separates us from God
- List after list of sins, then there’s the phrase “and the like”
- We need to be watchful and not scoff at or ignore the warnings.

2. Know The Predators

- Identifying evil amongst people can be like identifying a criminal

- We watched a movie that gave two examples
- A cute baby like character that turned out to be a thief
- A nice old lady that turned out to be liar and criminal
- We can’t be paranoid, but can we identify a wolf in sheep-skin?
- Jesus said we can:

[Matt. 7:15–16](#) “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.

- Sheep don’t eat other sheep. Sheep eat grass
- Sheep don’t growl. Sheep Bleat

- There are people who want nothing more than to be the leaders
 - We were gathering names for those who were willing and able become elders. One man started campaigning for his appointment.
 - We had meetings, and Bible Studies for educating the church about who is qualified.
 - This man was in on one of these Bible studies. He met each qualification we discussed with a challenge of its validity.
 - He stated how strict they were and that no man is that perfect.
- When someone constantly debates the apostles, and disputes the words of Jesus, that is at best a red flag for them to be a wolf. A wolf will deny these teachings, or teachings about Biblical worship, or how to become a Christian or anything else found in Scripture.

3. Know Yourself

- “To Know thyself is the beginning of wisdom” Socrates
 - We would say:

[Proverbs 9:10](#) “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.

- But there is substance to the idea of knowing yourself.
- It’s the idea of being honest with yourself

[James 1:22](#) be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves

- What is it that tempts you most? Or even least? Do you know this?
 - It is laziness? Or food? Maybe it’s money or possessions
 - Could it be power or attention of others or hearing juicy gossip?
 - How about physical pleasure or entertainment even hard work?
 - Maybe you even have a blind spot that keeps you from knowing!
 - Do you try to find loopholes or exceptions to biblical teachings?
 - What is it that you do or think to get out of obedience to God’s word? **You may be deceiving yourself**
- Do you watch for and avoid things that draw you away from God?
 - Do you know your own weaknesses and try to obtain help with them?
 - Do you examine yourself? Are you honest with that examination?