

Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion, IA  
Pastor Kleeberger

SERMON OUTLINE 8/22/2010

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:1-20

TITLE: "EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF A DYING CHURCH"

INTRODUCTION:

1. Soldiers of Christ arise!
2. Cancer is a devastating disease! Cures are improving, but \_\_\_\_\_ detection is so vital.
3. Local church statistics: Church plants are fragile & many established churches have plateaued or are in decline.
4. How would God assess/evaluate the spiritual health of our church? Are we \_\_\_\_\_ the biblical model of what a local church should be?

PROPOSITION: Let's be alive, active & awesome for God as Believers & as a church!

I. WARNING SIGN #1 – BEWARE CLOSED EYES, John 4:27-42

- A. The Problem.
  1. Blinded to lost co-workers.
  2. Blinded to lost neighbors in all \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Blinded to lost people in the Community.
- B. The Solution.
  1. *John 4:2—31*/Our normal focus.
  2. *John 4:32-34*/The priority of Christ.
  3. *John 4:35-42*/Now is the time!

II. WARNING SIGN #2: BEWARE CLOSED EARS, Luke 16:19-31

- A. The Problem.
  1. Does the \_\_\_\_\_ of God get from our eardrums to our heart?
  2. Are we sensitive to the cries of the lost? Ears filled with other sounds/wax of carnality?
- B. The Solution.
  1. *Luke 16:19-23*/People can go through life worshipping the \_\_\_\_\_ thing.
  2. *Luke 16:24-30*/Salvation is based on faith, not

sight. . .

3. *Luke 16:31*/Miracles won't \_\_\_\_\_ every heart,  
cf. *Matt. 28:19&20*/ GO!

III. WARNING SIGN #3: BEWARE CLOSED MOUTHS,  
*Ezekiel 33:1-9*

A. The Problem

1. Believers talk more to each other than to lost souls.
2. Attempts to witness are often incomplete.

B. The Solution.

1. *Ezekiel 33:1-9*/Ezekiel was \_\_\_\_\_ by God to warn unbelieving Israelites.
2. Powerful lesson & application for believers today, (O & N Test./Lockstep), *I Corinthians 9:16*.
  - a. *Colossians 1:24-29*/To Colossians & to all believers . . .
  - b. *I Thessalonians 2:3-8*/To Thessalonians & to all believers . . . PROCLAIM/PREACH THE GOSPEL!

IV. WARNING SIGN #4: BEWARE CLOSED HEARTS,  
*John 15:1-8*

A. The Problem.

1. Bible labels for \_\_\_\_\_ of witness: disobedient, apathetic, indifferent, carnal, & unthankful.
2. *John 15:1-4*/The expectation is fruit-bearing.

B. The Solution.

1. Believe the Bible/\_\_\_\_\_ the Good News!
2. Obey God & open up to others, *John 15:5-8*.

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you sure of heaven?
2. Heed the warnings!

1. Salvation is a pre-requisite to effectiveness.

2. Resolve to be a witness!