

Noted below is a Purpose Statement and This-We-Believe information for the *I Am A Watchman* ministry. In the areas of doctrine and dogma, the *I Am A Watchman* ministry will present information that is biblically balanced and centrist. *I Am A Watchman* materials will be conservative (not necessarily fundamentalist), and consistent with the teachings of the historic Christian Church. At times, our writings will reference various schools of thought on issues, but *I Am A Watchman* material maintain a Pre-Tribulation Rapture view and will not focus on “disputable matters.” *I Am A Watchman* ministry material, much like the teaching and material of the Billy Graham ministry, is not denominationally or regionally specific, but rather, is designed to edify, encourage, and exhort the entire body of Christ.

### **OUR MISSION**

The *I Am A Watchman* ministry has been established to help individuals know the love of Jesus, enter into relationship with Jesus, live for Jesus, tell others about Jesus, and to prepare for the imminent return of Jesus. In informal language, the Watchman ministry strives to help individuals **finish well** (which is to live a life of meaning and purpose, and at the coming judgment hear the Lord say, “*Well done my good and faithful servant*”). In more theological terms, Watchman ministry’s focus is to help **prepare the bride of Christ to meet the coming Bridegroom.** This language comes from Matt. 25:1-46; Rev. 19:7-9; Rev. 21:2; John 14:1-3; Rev. 21:9-11. The phrase is a word picture that imagines believers in Christ as the ***bride***, who stand in readiness and purity, waiting for the ***Groom***, who has promised to return, reward, and take his bride away.

The wise will strive to live well so they can finish well. The astute will strive to be aware of what God has done and what prophecy notes He will do in the days to come. In support of these goals, the *I Am A Watchman* ministry is happy to make available at no cost a wealth of discipleship, prophecy, and spiritual growth resources for those who desire to learn, and those who are called to lead.

## **THIS WE BELIEVE**

- **God and Trinity:** We believe there is one God (Deut. 6:4), and that this one God has revealed Himself in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:16). The triune nature of God is known as the Trinity. Each component of the triune nature of God is separate but equal, distinct in description but one in nature.
- **Jesus Christ:** We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Messiah and the Savior of the world, He was born of a virgin (Matt. 1:18,20) in Bethlehem about 2000 years ago. The 'fullness of deity dwelt in him' (Col. 2:9), and so He was both fully divine (John 1:1; Phil. 2:6), and fully human (John 1:14; Rom. 8:3; I Tim. 2:5). His dual nature allowed him to experience temptation as a man—but He lived a sinless life and was, therefore, able to offer Himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross, making salvation possible for all who believe in Him (John 3:16). Believers are called to anticipate and prepare for His imminent return.
- **Holy Spirit:** We believe the Holy Spirit is part of the triune Godhead, equal in glory and power with God the Father, yet having a different role and purpose to fulfill. In our world, the Spirit lives in the heart of every believer. The presence of the Spirit brings peace (Philippians 4:6-7), power (Acts 1:8), and gifting (I Corinthians 12:11). The Spirit enables the believer to serve with effectiveness and leads individuals to do that which honors Him (I Corinthians 14:3-5, 12-26). We do not hold that 'speaking in tongues' is evidence of salvation. We believe the working of the Spirit is both profound and orderly.
- **The Bible:** We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is without error and useful for addressing the struggles and challenges of today (II Timothy 3:16; John 17:17; II Peter 1:21). We believe that God has and will continue to preserve the integrity of His Word.
- **Salvation:** We believe Jesus Christ died for all (Romans 5:18; II Corinthians 5:19; I John 2:2), but only those who commit to

receiving Jesus as their Lord and accept the forgiveness offered by Christ will be saved (Romans 5:1, 15, 18). We believe that individuals are saved by grace (not by works) through faith (Eph. 2:8-10) and that a life of good works evidences a genuine salvation experience (John 8:31,14:15; James 1:21-23, 2:26).

- **Baptism:** Baptism comes from the Greek verb *baptidzo*, which means to immerse. It is a symbolic act which identifies the believer with a new life in Christ. Baptism emphasizes unity. According to Scripture, baptism is 'by one Spirit' and 'into one body' (1 Cor. 12:13). Baptism unites believers who share one faith, have one hope and live to serve one Lord. In Peter's sermon (Acts 2:38-42), baptism signified repentance and reception of the Gospel message of Jesus. The outcome of those baptized was that they were, "added to the church; they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and Christian fellowship" (Rom. 6:4,7; Acts 8:12-17; Col. 2:12). Baptism is a significant decision and witness to one's faith in Jesus Christ. Accordingly, we believe baptism is an act (Ordinance) restricted to individuals old enough to understand its meaning.
- **Communion:** Communion (The Lord's Supper) is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers. It is a symbolic ceremony which reminds believers of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through communion we remember the sacrifice of our Lord (1 Cor. 11:24), we acknowledge the New Covenant made possible by Jesus' work on Calvary (1 Cor. 11:25), and we proclaim our faith (1 Cor. 11:26). We believe that all who receive communion should first enter a time of prayerful reflection and ensure that they are right before man and God before sharing in this ordinance (1 Cor. 11:29).
- **Women's' Role in the Church:** We see that the Old and New Testaments note that women have played a vital role in spiritual work throughout the ages. In the Old Testament God worked in profound ways through women such as Miriam, the leader, Esther the brave Queen, Huldah the prophetess, Deborah the Judge, and Abigail, the wise intercessor. In the New Testament, God's work was supported brilliantly by women such as Mary, Lydia, Dorcas, Martha and many others. We believe Scripture esteems, not

demeans women, and that though God calls men to lead in some spiritual matters—in *the home and the church*, He calls both men and women to be *Watchmen* (Ezek. 33:1-9). The work of the Great Commission is a shared responsibility that all in the faith must support.

- **Eschatology:** is the study of the *last things*. There are more than 100 prophecies about the last days. As it is clear this topic is important to God, it should, therefore, be a priority study topic for followers of Christ. Though there are points of disagreement among leaders in the Church today regarding the *what* and *when* of last days events, there is much common ground. Most evangelicals hold that:
  - The Bible is true, and that Jesus Christ will return as promised.
  - A time of Tribulation is coming (7 years).
  - A series of judgments (21) will befall the earth through which God will attempt to draw a stubborn humanity to Himself.
  - An Antichrist will rise to power.
  - A false prophet will lead a one world religion that will oppress Jews and Christians.
  - The Antichrist will control the world economy—and use it as a weapon to force the world to honor him.
  - Enemy armies will surround Israel and attack in a battle known as Armageddon.
  - At the end of the Tribulation period, Christ will return in glory—he will destroy the armies surrounding Israel, see that the Antichrist and false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire and will then usher in the Millennial Kingdom.
  - There will be a final judgment.

The call for believers today is twofold: 1) watch for the signs of the Lord's return for His return is promised and imminent and 2) be active in serving the Lord (be active in "Great Commission" and Watchman work – be "ALL IN" for Jesus).

- **The Rapture:** The word “rapture” indicates a sudden ***taking away*** of believers from this world by the Lord Jesus Christ. The *I Am A Watchman* ministry team holds a Pre-Tribulation Rapture view—which holds that the Rapture event will precede the beginning of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week and the Tribulation period. Implied is that this ***taking away*** is an act of mercy— a rescue from the tribulations that are to come. Though the word “rapture” is not in the Bible, the foundation for the rapture teaching *is* reflected in Scripture (*Note: the same can be said of the terms, Trinity and Missions*). When the notable Church Father Jerome (347-420 A.D.) translated the Greek New Testament into Latin, he translated the Greek word *harpazio* ἀρνάζω into the Latin “rapiemur.” The Latin verb form is “radio” and means to be “caught up” or “taken away.” The English word “rapture” comes from these Latin words. The Apostle Paul used the word ἀρνάζω in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 in reference to the sudden return of the Lord and believers joining Him in the air. The Greek word *harpazio* means to “seize” or “snatch away;” it serves as a foundational word for the rapture doctrine. The word is found 13 times in the New Testament: Matthew 11:12, 13:19; John 6:15, 10:12, 28-29; Acts 8:39, 23:10; 2 Corinthians 12:2, 12:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Jude 23; Revelation 12:5.