

## Be Aware of Your Surroundings

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by Wayne Goff

Military personnel will tell you when you're out on the field of battle to be constantly aware of your surroundings. It is no different for the *Christian soldier* who is fighting not only for his life, but more importantly for his **eternal soul!**

On the day of Pentecost, the first inspired message of Jesus through His apostles included this warning: "**Save yourselves from this untoward generation**" (Acts 2:40, KJV). The word translated "**untoward**" (KJV) or "**perverse**" (NKJV) means literally, *warped*. It is used *figuratively* in this context to refer to the mindset of the wicked world of that day. Nothing has changed in the last 2,000 years -- we certainly live in a *warped* world today.

Paul wrote to his beloved brethren in Philippi and said: "*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault **in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation**, among whom you shine as lights in the world*" (Phil. 2:15). Interestingly, the same Greek word of Acts 2:40 is translated "crooked" in Philippians. But add to that the word translated "perverse" in Philippians. It means *literally* "to distort." Again it is used here *figuratively* of *moral corruption*.

Soldiers of the cross who begin to be comfortable in this *perverse, corrupt and sinful world* have **no chance** of surviving *spiritually!* They will begin to view everyone as *friendly*, or *not so bad*, or even worse, *sympathetic*. We must remain aware of our hostile surroundings and never let up our guard!

The admonition is to "*come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean and I will receive you*" (2 Cor. 6:17-18). Is that your idea, dearly beloved?

"*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*" (1 Thess. 5:5-6).

Jesus warned the apostles: "*Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be **wise as serpents and harmless as doves***" (Matt. 10:16).

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