

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

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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