

WATCH OUT!

“Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh”
(Phil. 3:2)

Current events have made this warning come alive with meaning and significance.

- On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 men who lived among us as friends and neighbours put to death over 3,000 innocent people without warning or cause.
- The “20th hijacker”, Zacharias Moussau, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, was planning to kill even more. French intelligence authorities say that Moussau was planning a second wave of suicide hijackings.
- Last year Martin and Gracia Burnham were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary at a beach resort in the Philippines. A radical Muslim group called Abu Sayyaf, kidnapped them and held them hostage for many months. While original reports indicated that Martin was killed in the cross fire between Philippine soldiers and the Muslim kidnapers, we now believe he was executed by Abu Lukman, on the orders of Abu Sabaya. His wife, Gracia, was rescued.
- In October of 2001 three Muslim gunmen walked into a church service in Bahawalput, Pakistan. They killed the pastor and then turned their guns on the congregation. 16 more were killed and many others wounded. One of the survivors was Khurram Shazad who sustained 25 bullet wounds to his chest, abdomen, and right hand. He lost two fingers and had a colostomy for some time, but miraculously is still alive.
- News reports on Sept. 5, 2002 indicate that a U.S. Special Forces soldier was killed in Afghanistan by a 16 year old Canadian youth named Oman Al Khadr. Oman’s father, Ahmed Saeed Khadr is said to have direct ties to Osama bin Laden.
- Also on Sept. 5, 2002 an interview with two top al Qaida leaders was shown on Arabic television. Khaled Shaikh Mohammad, and Ramzi Binalshibh are men close to bin Laden and refer to 9/11/01 as “Holy Tuesday”. They described in detail how al Qaida planned and carried out the infamous murder of over 3,000 American citizens.
- Experts admit that it is impossible to predict or prevent additional attacks.

Paul’s personal experience

- Paul was originally a persecutor of Christians. He held the garments of those who stoned Stephen and when others were put to death he cast his vote against them (Acts 26:9 - 11).
- In Damascus, the city of his conversion, the Jews plotted to kill him and he escaped by being lowered over the city wall in a basket (Acts 9:23 - 25).
- The Jews in Jerusalem tried to kill him and he escaped to Tarsus (Acts 9:29 - 30).
- Other evil men chased him from Antioch, and Iconium, and then stoned him and left him for dead in Lystra (Acts 14:1 - 20).
- Other men doing evil had him unjustly beaten and imprisoned in Philippi (Acts 16:).
- Still others plotted to kill him when he was about to set sail for Syria (Acts 20:3).
- The Holy Spirit warned him in every city that when he got to Jerusalem other men doing evil would put him in prison and cause him hardship (Acts 20:22).
- Over 40 others in Jerusalem vowed not to eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul (Acts 23:12 - 14). God used Roman soldiers to save him from their hands.
- Two years later another plot was made to kill Paul (Acts 25:1 - 3). Paul escaped this time by appealing to Rome.
- Paul wrote this inspired warning as a prisoner in Rome: “Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh”.
- Perhaps now we can understand his warning more accurately than ever before.

Watch out for men who do evil!