Sounding the Alarm

Introduction:
1. Alarms are necessary in an uncertain world!
2. Alarms exist to disturb our comfort!
3. Alarms call us to revert to our training!

Our Text:

John 16:1-7 "These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me. But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, Where are You going? But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

I. The Review (John 16:1)

John 16:1 “These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.”

In John 15:18-21 Jesus warned them about their combative relationship with the world that hates Christ and hates them also (stumbling = Greek: skandalizō = entrapped and entangled)

Loneliness and rejection is often the price of fellowship with Christ and His people!

II. The Revelation (John 16:2)

John 16:2 "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.”

Alarm #1 “You will be treated as outcasts for following Christ.”
John 16:2a "They will make you outcasts (i.e. unsynagogue you) from the synagogue…”


In Paul’s day the Christians had become “as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things…even until now.” (1 Cor. 4:13)

The times have never changed for born-again Christians!

Alarm #2. “You will be killed for following Christ.”

John 16:2b “…but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.”

The Story of Saul of Tarsus: The Extreme Zealot (Phil 3:5-6; Gal. 1:13-14; Acts 26:9-11)

Illustration of Persecutions Throughout History….

To be forewarned is to be forearmed!
III. The Reason (John 16:3)
John 16:3 “These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.”

Theological ignorance results in prejudice and persecution

1. We must teach the Word of God to those who are theologically ignorant
2. We must spread the love of God to those who are being taught to hate us.

IV. The Reminder (John 16:4)

A. The Certainty of His Prophecy (John 16:4a)
John 16:4a "But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.”

“If what I am predicting about earthly persecution comes to pass then you can also believe that what I am also saying about your heavenly future will also come to pass! cf. Romans 8:18; Luke 6:22-23

B. The Security of His Presence (John 16:4b)
John 16:4b “…These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.” (cf.Jn 15:18-20)

V. The Response (John 16:5-6)

A. They refused to consider what was about to happen to Jesus (Jn 16:5)
John 16:5 "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'

B. They were filled with concern over what would happen to them (Jn 16:6)
John 16:6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.”

VI. The Resource (John 16:7) The Bell of Hope = The Promise of the Holy Spirit
John 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”

As the Helper, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter and Paraclete, the Holy Spirit will have quite a ministry in our lives as He empowers us to live in a world that rejects us and may even try to kill us.

• He will abide with us and be in us forever (Jn 14:16-17; 16:13)
• He will teach us and disclose to us what we need to know (Jn 14:16; 16:13)
• He will bring all that Christ has taught us to remembrance (14:16)
• He will convict the unbelieving world of its sin, it need for righteousness and its impending judgment if it fails to turn to Christ

Concluding Challenge:
"Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."(cf. 2 Tim 2:3-4)

Our Commander in Chief, the Lord Jesus Christ, is sounding the alarm. Who among us is listening?