

THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

In the Northern part of Mesopotamia, on the banks of the Chebar, God called unto Himself a prophet to speak to His people who were then captive in Babylon. This was Ezekiel, a man who lived in the colony of banished Jews called Tel-Abib, with his family. As God was making clear his mission, He impressed upon him the great responsibility of warning others concerning their sinful state.

"When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked {man} shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul." (Ezekiel 3:18,19)

Although this is a case where God came directly to one man and gave him a specific task to perform, the principles taught here are as valid today as they were then. Through His inspired writers, He has laid upon us the duty of reaching the lost with the gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus (Luke 24:46,47; Matthew 28:19,20). The urgency is no less than it was in the time of Ezekiel. People are still dying in iniquity, destined to stand condemned before the Great Judge in the Last Day.

The question that we must face is, "Are we free from the blood of all men?" The only way we can be is if we, like the apostle Paul, can say that we have "...not shunned to declare...the whole counsel of God." (Acts 20:27) If we neglect to teach others concerning the commands of God, have we declared the whole counsel of God? Or if we "water down" some of the restrictions that He has placed upon our lives and regard people's feelings rather than the truth of God's word, have we declared the whole counsel of God?

Yet, many are critical of preachers and teachers who stand before others and proclaim the mandates of God. Do they not realize, that if ANY who are proclaiming God's Word neglect to warn those whom God says will receive death as the wages of sin (Romans 6:23), that they themselves will be held accountable before God for their neglect? There is no doubt that many who are criticizing others for their bold proclamation of the Word today, are themselves facing the danger of eternal condemnation for their own negligence in declaring to others the whole counsel of God!

-Gailen E. Evans