

Pure from the Blood of All Men

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A heavy burden to be carried by all ministers of the Gospel, and all Christians for that matter, can be found in Paul's statement in Acts 20:26: "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men..." Why was Paul pure from the blood of all men?

Before I answer that in the subsequent verses, it is important for us to consider the precarious situation of those who know the Truth but refuse to share it. Simply stated, one who knows the Truth is duty-bound by the Truth to share the Truth with others. What if the apostles had kept the Good News to themselves, rather than enacting the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20)? What if the early Christians had just shut down in the face of persecution, rather than going everywhere preaching the Word (Acts 8:4)? An essential element of the continuation of the church is that Christians continue to proclaim the Word! Jesus stated in Matthew 16:18 that the gates of hell will not prevail against His church. Sadly, I fear that in too many places, the church has self-inflicted wounds due to lack of evangelism. While it is true that the Devil will not defeat the Lord and His church, isn't it a shame how much growth has been hindered as evangelism has seemingly gone by the wayside in far too many places?

We cannot stand idly by while the church continues to shrink in this country. I'm confident that, as long as this world stands, there will always be a righteous remnant. That said, I want the Lord's church to FLOURISH, if I can help it do so! Don't you?! Let us remember that we are dutybound to evangelize, as we recall the words of Ezekiel regarding the watchman in Ezekiel 3:17 and following. Paraphrasing that passage, the Lord reminded Ezekiel — and we need the reminder too! — that he had been set a watchman to WARN the people of their need to repent. If he succeeded in warning the people and the people still refused to repent, then the people would be punished, but Ezekiel would be spared. But if the people refused to repent, in part because Ezekiel failed to WARN them, then Ezekiel would be punished too!

Brethren, the same will be the case for us! We have the Truth! We KNOW that Jesus did not establish a single denomination! We KNOW that error is being taught regarding the plan of salvation, women's roles, worship, morality, and many other crucial doctrines, and it is HIGH TIME that we stand up and speak out! The church's survival in our generation is dependent on it!

Again, remember that Paul was pure from the blood of all men. Now notice the follow up that explains why: "For I have not shunned to declare unto you ALL the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27, emphasis mine throughout, TCG). Paul did not hold back ANYTHING that the people needed to hear! He preached it ALL! And we must do the same!

Paul then reminded the Ephesian elders that they were duty-bound to "TAKE HEED" both unto themselves and "to ALL the flock," as the Holy Spirit had made them overseers of the flock, "to FEED" it. Paul then calls the flock "the church of God which he hath purchased with

his own blood.” In just a short matter of time, false teachers would come in and tear the local Ephesian flock apart, but it would not be because Paul had failed to warn them! Their blood was not on Paul’s hands! The question, though, is this — Will there be blood on OUR hands?

With love, Chase