

## **DECLARING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD**

**Marc Gibson**

As Paul was about to depart from the elders of the church of Ephesus, he reviewed his work with the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17-27). He concluded that portion of his remarks by reminding them that he was innocent of the blood of all men, "*for I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God*" (v. 27). To have not "shunned" means to not have avoided his responsibility as a preacher to declare all that God has revealed. A gospel preacher has the obligation and responsibility to tell saint and sinner alike what God has revealed on any and every subject. This cannot be accomplished overnight, but with consistent teaching and preaching overtime. The whole counsel of God must be declared so that men may know the truth.

There seems to be some subject matters that are shunned in our pulpits today. This can either be because those who should declare the truth are ignorant of these matters or are avoiding certain subjects for some reason. A preacher may be asked to speak on what the Bible teaches about the Sabbath. This may require some study, but it should be done, and the truth faithfully declared. If a man is lazy and unwilling to study what the scriptures say in order to declare the truth of God on any subject, then he should do the Lord and his brethren a favor and find another line of work. God did not tell preachers to pick and choose the easy or convenient subjects to preach. The whole counsel must be declared to all.

Some may shun preaching certain subjects because they are controversial. Brethren in such places will not hear solid, scripture-filled sermons on subjects such as marriage, divorce, and remarriage because the preacher will not preach on it. Just a passing mention or two in other sermons will not substitute for thorough study and teaching. The preacher may hold an erroneous position on a subject so he will not preach on it to avoid being questioned or confronted. Or there may be error rampant among the members, so the subject is never brought up, or is lightly treated so as not to offend anyone. We must study the Word, believe what it teaches, and then boldly declare the whole counsel of God.