

## “I Did Not Cease to Warn Everyone”

### Introduction

1. The apostle Paul made a speech to the elders from Ephesus at Miletus using the words of the title of this lesson in Acts 20.
  - A. Paul reminded them of his preaching and teaching while he was working with them.
  - B. He had come there and established the church and for three years he continued to teach them.
  - C. He was continually making known to them duties and responsibilities, and warning them of the consequences of sin and unfaithfulness.
  - D. He had “not shunned to declare....all the counsel of God” (v.27), and had “kept back nothing that was helpful” to them (v.20).
2. Paul was a courageous and faithful servant of the Lord.

### Ezekiel - the Watchman

1. In the Old Testament Ezekiel, the priest of God, was told by the Lord:  
**Ezekiel 3:17-21**
2. Ezekiel could have excused himself by saying the people would not listen.
  - A. But the Lord precluded that in the previous chapter saying:

Ezekiel 2:7 You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.

- 3. A warning would serve two purposes:**
  - A. It would make the person warned aware of the sin and the consequence of it.**
  - B. It would make Ezekiel free from the blood of the individual warned.**
    - 1) It was primarily for the benefit of the person warned, but it also benefitted the one doing the warning by keeping him free from guilt.**

## **Paul's Admonitions**

- 1. In the New Testament it was the apostle Paul who wrote to the Thessalonians:**

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

- 2. To the Galatian brethren he wrote:**

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

- A. Paul was a servant of Christ, not a politician. He was not out to please men, but God.**
- B. Paul was not interested in popularity, but the salvation of souls.**

### **3. With that in mind, he wrote to the Corinthians:**

2 Corinthians 5:11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, **we persuade men**; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

#### **A. In a way, we have insight of his attitude when he writes to these same people by saying:**

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but **by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.**

### **4. When Paul addressed the elders of Ephesus, he could boldly assert:**

Acts 20:26-27 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For **I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.**

Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years **I did not cease to warn everyone** night and day with tears.

### **5. To Timothy, a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul wrote:**

1 Timothy 4:6 **If you instruct the brethren in these things**, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

### **6. To Titus, he writes:**

Titus 2:15 **Speak these things**, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

**7. In Paul's second letter to Timothy he wrote:****2 Timothy 4:2-4**

- A. He also informs us that men would be “lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:4)**
- B. I believe that all honest men and women can agree that we are living in such a time.**

**The Love of the Truth****1. When Jesus was on earth He preached:**

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness,**  
For they shall be filled.

- A. Unfortunately, all men do not take kindly to instruction.**
- B. Jesus was crucified for His teaching – and it was TRUTH!**
- C. John the Baptist was beheaded for the truth he spoke.**
- D. Stephen, a faithful disciple of Christ, was stoned to death for preaching the truth to the Jews.**

**2. Paul writes to the Galatian brethren and asks:**

Galatians 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy **because I tell you the truth?**

- A. Truth only makes friends of those who want to know and do what's right.**

3. **It is dangerous for one not to love the truth – ALL OF IT!**
  - A. **Because of a wrong attitude some have “changed the truth of God into a lie” (Romans 1:25).**
  - B. **Paul said of others:  
2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

## Conclusion

1. **The wise man of the Bible, Solomon declares, “Fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).**
2. **The man who does not want to be warned of sin nor instructed in righteous living is foolish and jeopardizes his own salvation.**
3. **The Word of God clearly teaches us:**

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

4. **Remember, Paul told the Elders of Ephesus, “I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears.”**
  - A. **If we really love the souls of men and women and want to see them saved, neither will we cease to preach the truth and warn people of the need to doing what is right in the sight of God.**

