

THE FULLY PREACHED GOSPEL

“The Fully Preached Gospel”

Acts 20:22-32

- 22 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.
- 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.
- 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.
- 25 "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.
- 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men.
- 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.
- 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
- 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.
- 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.
- 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.
- 32 "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. NIV

Being free of the blood of all men is being innocent as a watchman. Paul declares that to be a good watchman, he had to proclaim the whole will of God. What was a watchman?

Ezek 33:1-9

- 1 The word of the LORD came to me:
- 2 "Son of man, speak to your countrymen and say to them: 'When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman,
- 3 and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people,
- 4 then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head.
- 5 Since he heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning, his blood will be on his own head. If he had taken warning, he would have saved himself.
- 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.'
- 7 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.
- 8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.
- 9 But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. NIV

As a spiritual watchman, we are responsible for pointing out to the wicked the error of their ways. We also warn the righteous not to sin.

Ezek 3:17-21

- 17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.
- 18 When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.
- 19 But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself.
- 20 "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, and I put a stumbling block before him, he will die. Since you did not warn him, he will die for his sin. The righteous things he did will not be remembered, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.
- 21 But if you do warn the righteous man not to sin and he does not sin, he will surely live because he took warning, and you will have saved yourself." NIV

The first use of the Hebrew word for watchman [tsaphah 6822] in the Bible is in Genesis 31.

Gen 31:48-50

- 48 Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." That is why it was called Galeed.
- 49 It was also called Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other.
- 50 If you mistreat my daughters or if you take any wives besides my daughters, even though no one is with us, remember that God is a witness between you and me." NIV

God is telling us in this first usage that being a watchman is being one who looks carefully after the compliance to a covenant relationship.

Isa 21:1-10

- 1 An oracle concerning the Desert by the Sea: Like whirlwinds sweeping through the southland, an invader comes from the desert, from a land of terror.
- 2 A dire vision has been shown to me: The traitor betrays, the looter takes loot. Elam, attack! Media, lay siege! I will bring to an end all the groaning she caused.
- 3 At this my body is racked with pain, pangs seize me, like those of a woman in labor; I am staggered by what I hear, I am bewildered by what I see.
- 4 My heart falters, fear makes me tremble; the twilight I longed for has become a horror to me.
- 5 They set the tables, they spread the rugs, they eat, they drink! Get up, you officers, oil the shields!
- 6 This is what the Lord says to me: "Go, post a lookout and have him report what he sees.
- 7 When he sees chariots with teams of horses, riders on donkeys or riders on camels, let him be alert, fully alert."
- 8 And the lookout shouted, "Day after day, my lord, I stand on the watchtower; every night I stay at my post.

- 9 Look, here comes a man in a chariot with a team of horses. And he gives back the answer:
"Babylon has fallen, has fallen! All the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground!"
10 O my people, crushed on the threshing floor, I tell you what I have heard from the LORD
Almighty, from the God of Israel. NIV

A watchman is to report what he sees. In this prophecy, there a was a cry for the warriors (officers specifically) to wake up out of their indulgent feasting and to prepare for the battle. What does the watchman ultimately witness? The downfall of Babylon!

Isa 52:7-11

- 7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
8 Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.
9 Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10 The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.
11 Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the LORD. NIV

A watchman who rejoices at the salvation of the Lord being revealed in Zion is a watchman who has proclaimed on the mountains the good news!

Being a watchman is a prophetic priestly duty (Rom 15:16) to be accomplished with prayer and proclamation. It was the priests' job to cause the people to understand the law and differentiate between the clean and the unclean.

Rom 15:15-19

- 15 I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me
16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
17 Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.
18 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done-
19 by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. NIV

The proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ is a priestly duty [Grk. hierougeo, to work as a priest in the temple, used only here]. What were the duties of the priests (aside from sacrifices)?

Priests were to make the word plain-

Neh 8:1-8

- 1 all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.
- 2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand.
- 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.
- 4 Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.
- 5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up.
- 6 Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
- 7 The Levites-Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah-instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there.
- 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. NIV

Priests were to distinguish between the clean and the unclean-

Lev 10:10-11 NIV

- 10 You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean,
- 11 and you must teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses."

Ezek 44:23

They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean. NIV

How did Paul fully proclaim the gospel?

Rom 15:19

by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. NIV

The Lord-

Matt 3:16-17 NIV

- 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.
- 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matt 4:23

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. NIV

The Seventy-

Luke 10:17

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. KJV

The Twelve-

Luke 9:1-6

- 1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases,
- 2 and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.
- 3 He told them: "Take nothing for the journey-no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic.
- 4 Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.
- 5 If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them."
- 6 So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere. NIV

If we are to fully proclaim the Gospel, we must do so in the exhibited power of the Holy Spirit. And it must be presented with a clear goal in mind.

Col 1:25-29

- 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-
- 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.
- 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- 28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
- 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. NIV

We want to include in our message that Gentiles can inherit what was promised to Israel with the goal of presenting everyone, Jew and Gentile, mature in Christ.

Review:

To fully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must:

1. Warn the wicked to repent.
2. Warn the righteous not to sin.
3. Make the Word of God plain and understandable.
4. Make a distinction between the clean and the unclean.
5. Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit to teach and heal.
6. Make known the mystery of Christ.
7. Present everyone perfect in Christ Jesus.