

## **The Big Issue Is Eternity**

For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” Acts 20:27 How hard it must be for a doctor to tell a family who is anxiously awaiting news on the condition of a loved one, “I’m sorry. He didn’t make it.” How hard it must be to say to someone who just had a medical test, “I’m sorry, but you have cancer.” Yet a doctor must tell the truth. In the same way, it is hard at times to deliver the whole message of the gospel. The apostle Paul said he had failed to declare the whole counsel of God. When we share the gospel, we like to say things like, “God loves you. He will give you peace, joy, forgiveness, and the hope of Heaven if you will surrender your life to Jesus Christ.” But we avoid using the words Hell or judgment because we’re afraid people will get offended. However, the word gospel means “good news.” And before I can fully appreciate the good news, I need to fully know the bad news. Jesus did not come to this earth to be an additive in our lives. Jesus did not come just to give us warm, fuzzy emotional feelings. He primarily came to deliver us from an eternal judgment in Hell, and things like happiness, peace, and joy are fringe benefits. The big issue is eternity. We must not be afraid to tell people the truth – the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help us God. We have a message to share, and it isn’t always an easy one. God loves humanity. He is ready to forgive humanity. But if people reject His loving offer, then they seal their own fate and secure their judgment. And if we’re going to be faithful to declare the whole counsel of God, then we must tell people that.

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