

## Acts 20:27

*For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.*

One thing I like about going out to eat is when a restaurant has a good salad bar. With this pandemic going on, there have not been any salad bars for quite some time now, and I miss it. But when you think salad, you usually think healthy. But salad bars are not 100 percent healthy, with those potato salads, yummy gooey salad dressings, chocolate pudding and probably other things you can think of. Also, with a salad bar, you can pick and choose what you want on your plate. For me, things like raw broccoli or cauliflower or even olives are things I do not put on my plate when going to the salad bar. But my wife likes those things, its all a matter of choice for all who go to the salad bar. But even though there are things people like or don't like; or that are healthy and not so healthy, but tase yummy, it's all food and something you can eat.

Even growing up as kids, we were told to, or should I say, made to, eat our vegetables. Once again, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, peas, okra were all things I hated and still refuse to eat in most occasions. But my brother-in-law is a wonderful cook, in fact he would be what I would call a semi-professional cook, and I tell people that he could make dirt and rocks taste good. So if he cooks any of those veggies that I don't like, I would at least try them and sometimes even like them.

With all that in mind, one reason I go to the church I do is that they teach the entire bible, book by book, chapter by chapter, and verse by verse. When you go to a church that teaches that way, the Pastor can truly say that *I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God*, and isn't that what we want when we go to church, to hear all that the Lord has to say to us?

That's why it is so important, because when the bible is taught verse by verse, there is not a pick and choose what to teach. There are no subject teachings, or those teachings that what will tickle the ears of the congregation and ignoring those controversial subjects, like homosexuality, abortion, hell and repentance, yes some churches refuse to teach on hell or repentance, because they are afraid it will scare people away. Well yes it does, it will not scare them away from the church and will send them straight to hell, if hell and repentance are not taught. Do you really want to go to a church that focuses more on filling the church building with people, and not filling heaven with believers?

But when the bible is taught verse by verse, they can not ignore those controversial subjects, and the truth is, the people are getting fed good spiritual food, not just hamburgers and fries or onion rings. But also spiritual broccoli, okra and passages of the bible that so many tend to shy away from. And just like my brother-in-law is a wonderful cook, when you have the Holy Spirit speaking through the Pastor, even those hard to swallow passages are easier to take, you can

understand them better, and they are no longer controversial, because you understand it's God word and not some man's opinion, or point of view.

Even in personal bible reading, some will refuse to read certain books of the bible or skip over certain verses in the bible, because they just don't like them or they don't make them feel good. Well if certain verses in the bible makes you feel uncomfortable, it's very likely that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, and do you really want to ignore the Holy Spirit speaking to you by ignoring those verses?

Some will also only hear the bible read on Sunday at church, and will read devotionals and listen to teachings online, which are all great things. But you know what, that would be like going out to eat for every meal and never cooking for yourself. For those of you who do so spiritually, it's time to get off your pew, and start preparing a daily spiritual meal for yourself, and start having a daily bible reading schedule. Just like you probably have a regular routine to prepare and eat breakfast, lunch and dinner, and probably a snack in the evening while watching TV. So why not include a spiritual daily meal in that planning as well?

Your spiritual body will be healthier and will thank you for it.

- † **Deuteronomy 8:3** *So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.* (underlined for emphasis)
- † **1 Corinthians 10:3-4** *all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*
- † **Luke 12:23** *Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.*
- † **Job 23:12 (NLT2)** *I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food.*