

## THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

### (2 Timothy 4:5)

#### I. The definition of an evangelist.

- a. The Greek word literally means a bringer of good tidings.
  - i. The word gospel is a form of this Greek word.
  - ii. We know the word gospel literally means good news.
- b. An evangelist is one who brings the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- c. This word only occurs three times in the New Testament.
  - i. Our text in 2 Timothy 4:5.
  - ii. The passage in Ephesians 4:11.
  - iii. Also it is found in Acts 21:8 where it is a title for Philip.
    1. He is the one who brought the good news to the Samaritans (Acts 8:4ff).
    2. He is also the one who brought the good news to the Ethiopian (Acts 8:35).
- d. A lot of times we equate the word evangelist with missionary because evangelists often traveled.
  - i. But it is also true that evangelists sometimes stayed in one place for a lengthy time.
    1. It seems that Philip, once he left the Ethiopian, went to Caesarea and stayed there for about 20 years (Acts 8:40 + Acts 21:8).
    2. Timothy stayed at Ephesus for an extended time (1 Timothy 1:3).
  - ii. Those examples show that an evangelist doesn't have to always refer to someone who is never located in one place.

#### II. Other descriptive terms.

- a. The word preacher is used to describe one who is an evangelist.
  - i. Romans 10:14.
  - ii. This word means "to be a herald; to officiate as herald; to proclaim after the manner of a herald; always with a suggestion of formality, gravity, and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed" according to Thayer.
  - iii. This is used to describe the work of:
    1. John the Immerser (Matthew 3:1).
    2. Jesus (Matthew 4:17, 23).
    3. The apostles (Matthew 10:7).
    4. Philip the evangelist (Acts 8:5).
    5. Paul (Acts 28:31; 2 Timothy 1:11).
    6. Noah is called a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5).
- b. The word minister is also used to describe one who is an evangelist.
  - i. The word is also translated deacon or servant.

- ii. It isn't limited to preachers but it is often used to describe those who preach or teach.
  1. Paul (Acts 26:16).
  2. Epaphras (Colossians 1:7).
  3. Timothy (1 Thessalonians 3:2).
- iii. The preacher is not the only minister in a congregation because all Christians are to be ministers (1 Peter 4:10).
- c. There are a couple of terms that are used by the world to describe evangelists but are not used by the New Testament to do so.
  - i. Pastor is used by the majority of the denominational world to describe a preacher or evangelist.
    1. This word is used to describe elders or overseers (Ephesians 4:11)
    2. It is possible for an evangelist to be a pastor also but he has to meet the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and he serves in an eldership along with other elders or pastors.
    3. If such is the case, he is one of several pastors as well as being an evangelist.
  - ii. Reverend or father is used by some in the religious world as well.
    1. Such terms cannot be found given to any man in the first century church.
    2. Jesus condemned the use of titles like these (Matthew 23:8-12).

### III. The duties of an evangelist.

- a. The terms evangelist, minister, or preacher give a good idea of the duties of one who wears these titles or designations.
- b. What, though, are the specific duties of an evangelist.
- c. First, what those duties are.
  - i. Preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2).
    1. This is the main duty of a preacher or minister.
    2. It has to be the whole counsel or word of God, not just a part (Acts 20:27).
    3. It has been well and rightly said that a preacher can preach the truth his whole life and still lose his soul.
    4. All the truth must be proclaimed.
  - ii. Instruct the brethren how to live (1 Timothy 4:6).
    1. Timothy was told to preach about prayer, modesty, and the role of males and females in the church (1 Timothy 2).
    2. Titus was told to preach about family responsibility and how to be a good employee (Titus 2).
    3. To reprove sin, even in elders (1 Timothy 5:19-21).
  - iii. To set in order those things that are needed.

1. Encourage the appointment of elders (Titus 1:5).
    2. Training others to teach and preach (2 Timothy 2:2).
    3. Teaching against false teachers and their doctrines (1 Timothy 1:3-4; Titus 1:10-13).
  - iv. To set an example for the brethren and the lost.
    1. 1 Timothy 4:12.
    2. Titus 2:7.
  - v. To be devoted to God's word.
    1. 1 Timothy 4:13.
    2. 2 Timothy 2:15.
- d. Second, what those duties are not.
  - i. To do the work of elders, deacons, or anyone else.
    1. I'm supposed to do my work.
    2. I was not hired to do the work of others.
    3. No preacher or evangelist is.
  - ii. You and I both know that, in reality, I can't do the work of others.
    1. If I go to the hospital or visit the sick, it isn't for the elders or other members.
    2. It's for me as a Christian.
    3. We can't do others work for them.
    4. We can only do our work no matter who we are.
  - iii. For the Lord's church to function properly, each member is to provide what he or she can, whether you're an elder, deacon, evangelist, or member.
    1. Romans 12:4-8.
    2. Ephesians 4:16.

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