

# THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

## Lesson 21

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. An Evangelist is One of the "Gifts" in the Local Church (Eph. 4:11).
- B. Who is an "Evangelist"? Gr. *euangelisteos*, lit. "a messenger of good"; hence, "one who brings good news, see Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5. The "evangelist" (*euangelisteos*) is a person who "preaches" (*euangelizo*) the glad tidings of the "gospel" (*euangelion*) to others, both saints and sinners. See a Bible concordance for the many uses of "preach" (*euangelizo*) and "gospel" (*euangelion*).
- C. There are a number of Greek words that show what a faithful evangelist does in addition to "preaching" the truth. The evangelist is a herald of truth (*keerux, keerugma, keerrusso*). He sets forth truth (*katangelo*). He explains truth (*ektitheemi*). He reasons the truth through discussion (*dialegomai*). He completely exposes the truth (*dianoigo*). He sets forth truth for the purpose of argument and proof (*partitheemi*). He teaches the truth (*didaktos, didaskalos, didasko*). He exhorts with the truth (*parakaleo*).

### II. THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST.

Note: Because of space limitations this study has been taken entirely from Paul's epistles to Timothy and Titus, two evangelists who needed divine instruction about their work. Keep in mind that there is much to be learned about the work of the evangelist from other scriptures in the NT. 2 Corinthians is another good source for the study of the evangelist.

- A. His Morality – "Take Heed to Thyself".
  1. The life of the evangelist must be pure in all things. There are many things that he must be and many things that he must not be. Note that none of the evangelist's "qualifications" deal with formal education, oratory, or social graces.
  2. The evangelist must: stand against false teachers (1 Tim. 1:3; 6:3-5); refuse human wisdom and empty discussions (1 Tim. 4:7; 6:20-21; 2 Tim. 2:16-19, 23; 4:3-4); be a faithful, trustworthy Christian (1 Tim. 1:19; 1 Tim. 6:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:5, 13; 2:2); be godly (1 Tim. 4:7-8); set the right example (1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:7); spend time in reading, exhortation, teaching, and personal growth and self-motivation (1 Tim. 4:13-15; 2 Tim. 1:5-7, 14); guard himself and his teaching (1 Tim. 4:16); treat all church members the right way (1 Tim. 5:1-3); stay healthy (1 Tim. 5:23); flee sin, follow righteousness, and fight the good fight of the faith as a good soldier of Christ (1 Tim. 6: 11-12; 1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:3-5); suffer hardship with the gospel (2 Tim. 1:8; 4:5; 2:8-13); be strengthened in grace (2 Tim. 2:1); train others to teach (2 Tim. 2:2); handle accurately the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15); be ready for every good work (2 Tim. 2:20-22; 3:17); flee youthful lusts and follow righteousness (2 Tim. 2:22); be able to teach (2 Tim. 2:24); be gentle, forbearing, and meek (2 Tim. 2:24-26; 4:2); turn away from evil men and abide in the truth (2 Tim. 3:1-15); be vigilant in all things

(2 Tim. 4:5); be hard working (2 Tim. 4:5); fulfill his ministry (2 Tim.4:5); come to the aid of others (2 Tim. 4:9-22; Tit. 3:12-13; 2 Tim. 2:15-18); be pure in doctrine and speech (2 Tim. 2:7-8); be serious (2 Tim. 2:7); and, refuse factious people (Tit. 3:9-11).

3. The evangelist must not: allow himself to be despised (1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:15); receive an unjust accusation against an elder and be partial to certain members (1 Tim. 5:19-22, 24-25); be ashamed of Jesus or fellow-Christians (2 Tim. 1:8); be entangled in the world (2 Tim. 2:4); and, fight with others (2 Tim. 2:25).

#### B. His Mission – “These Things Teach”.

1. The work of the evangelist is to instruct others about how God wants them to behave (1 Tim. 3:14-15). The evangelist is primarily an instructor or teacher, not a "church administrator" or "church chaplain". The work of the evangelist is not limited to making new converts or planting churches. Evangelists are also to teach Christians in well-established churches.
2. The evangelist must instruct others about: prayer (1 Tim. 2:1-7); roles of men and women (1 Tim. 2:8-15); selection and appointment of elders and deacons (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9); apostasy and grievous times (1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Tim.3:1ff); the care of widows (1 Tim. 5:4-16); elder's support (5:17-18); the servant-master relationship (1 Tim. 6: 1-3; Tit. 2:9-10); contentment (1 Tim. 6:6-10); riches (1 Tim. 6:17-19); striving about words to no profit (2 Tim. 2:14); duties of the aged and the young (Tit. 2:1-6); unrighteous and righteous living (Tit. 2:11-3); good works (Tit. 2:14; 3:1,8,14); and, civil responsibilities (Tit. 3:1-3).

#### C. His Message — "Preach the Word".

1. The message of the evangelist comes from God's word— the Bible. He does not preach himself, human wisdom, or religious tradition. He preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. The evangelist should "hold the pattern of sound words" (2 Tim. 1:13), handle "aright the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15), "abide in" the truth (2 Tim. 3:14), believe "all scripture inspired of God" (2 Tim. 3:16), and "preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2).

#### D. His Method — "Put the Brethren in Mind".

1. The method of communication used by the evangelist when he teaches may vary depending upon the audience and the circumstances surrounding his lesson. The evangelist is both "positive" and "negative" in his approach to teaching the truth. He must use these methods "in season and out of season;" that is, when it is favorable and unfavorable (2 Tim. 4:2).
2. The evangelist may need to: remind (1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:14; Tit. 3:1); command (1 Tim. 4:11; 6:17); charge (2 Tim. 2:14); teach, reprove, correct, and instruct (2 Tim. 3:16); reprove, rebuke, and exhort (2 Tim.4:2; 1 Tim. 4:13 6:2; Tit. 1:13; 2:15); speak authoritatively (Tit. 2:15); and, confidently affirm (Tit. 3:8).

E. His Motive — "Save Thyself and Them That Hear Thee".

1. The motive behind the evangelist's work is not carnal, but spiritual. The evangelist does what he does to save himself and others. Saving souls is his main concern, not power, prestige, personal advantage, or money (2 Cor. 2:17). The evangelist can maintain his proper motive if he will remember that he is a "minister (servant) of Jesus Christ" (1 Tim. 4:6), a "man of God" (1 Tim. 6:11), a "workman that needs not be ashamed" (2 Tim. 2:15), and, the "Lord's servant (slave)" (2 Tim. 2:24).
2. The evangelist preaches so that he can save himself and those who hear him (1 Tim. 4:16).

### III. SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EVANGELIST

A. Authority.

1. What kind of authority does he have? Authority comes from his message, not from his position (Tit. 2:15).
2. Can a woman be a preacher? No, she would violate 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 in her public speaking to a mixed audience and 1 Timothy 2:11-12 in her speaking in an authoritative manner (Tit. 2:15).

B. Marriage, Location, and Financial Support.

1. Can he marry? Yes (Acts 21:8-9; 1 Cor. 9:5; 1 Tim. 4:1-3).
2. How long can he stay in one place? As long as it is expedient (Acts 18:11; 19:9-10; 20:31).
3. Can he receive financial support from the local church treasury? Yes (1 Cor. 9:9-14; 2 Cor. 11:7-9; 12:13; Phil. 4:14-18; 2 Tim. 2:6).

C. Classification and Formal Education.

1. Can he specialize ("Pulpit Ministers," "Youth Ministers," "Prison Ministers," "Evangelistic Missionaries")? Is he directly "called" by God and "ordained"? Can he be called "Priest," "Pastor," "Father", or "Reverend"? Is there a difference between the "Clergy" and the "Laity"? The answer is "No" to each of these questions. There is no authority for any of this in the NT.
2. Must a man have a formal education in order to preach? No (Mk. 6:2-3; Jn. 7:14-17; Acts 4:13).

### IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. An Evangelist Has a Particular "Work" to Do and "Ministry" to Fulfill (2 Tim. 4:5). More Evangelists Are Needed with the Right Spiritual Character to Do This Work.
- B. A Local Church and Its Evangelist Should Have a Thorough Understanding of What is Expected of Each Other. More Local Churches are Needed Who Will Properly Support (Physically and Spiritually) the Evangelist in His Work. A Local Church Should Not Require More or Less of the Evangelist Than What God Requires in His Word.

## Lesson Twenty-One Discussion

1. Who is listed as a "gift" in the local church along with "apostles", "prophets", "pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:11)?
2. What does the word "evangelist" mean and what two other words are related to the word "evangelist"?
3. List the various things that the evangelist is to do with the truth in addition to "preaching" it. Do these responsibilities tell us anything about the preacher's character and personality?
4. How would you summarize an evangelist's morality? What must he do and not do?
5. What is the primary mission or work of the evangelist? How can a local church help and hinder this work?
6. What is the message of the evangelist and how can the evangelist stray from this message?
7. List the positive and negative methods of communication used by the evangelist in his teaching. Is the approval rating of the evangelist today sometimes based upon his communication methods?
8. What should and should not be the motive behind an evangelist's work?
9. What other terms are used in 1-2 Timothy and Titus to describe the evangelist?

10. T or F — An evangelist has no authority.
11. T or F — A woman can be a preacher.
12. T or F — An evangelist cannot marry.
13. T or F — An evangelist cannot stay long in an established local church.
14. T or F — An evangelist cannot be supported financially by the local church.
15. T or F — An evangelist is a member of the "clergy".
16. What should be the main concern on the mind of a man who wants to become an evangelist?
  
17. What should be the main concern for a local church who wants to have an evangelist work with them?