

## Equipping the Saints – Evangelist

*“It was he (Jesus) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Eph. 4: 11-13 NIV)*

**God provided for His Church to become mature.** The Church did not begin fully functional. God built His Church. The beginning foundation was built by the apostles and prophets upon the truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ’s church is a Spiritual entity. We get distracted from what is real and true because we still exist in physical form. Our world includes many clubs, organizations, businesses that are formed given physical standards. Christ’s kingdom is not of this world. His church and His kingdom are one and the same. His house is a spiritual house!

**Once the foundation is laid, we are to go on with the building of it.** Each generation is opportunity for more building upon the foundation already laid. Each new people group is an opportunity for more building upon the foundation already laid. God has provided for all people groups of all times in all places of all generations. The truth of Christ is to be made known to all. That is the primary work of the Evangelist. Again, there are no positions or offices, there is only work to be done. This work is to be done by those that God has called to accomplish that work.

We often use the terms – preaching and evangelizing. These words simply mean, telling people about how Jesus can save mankind for all eternity. **There are those that God has called to be set apart for doing this every day of their life. They are called Evangelists.** They, like Timothy and Titus, have been set apart to accomplish this work. By the way, each Christian is to confess (tell the truth) Jesus as the Son of God as they go through life. However God has given some to be evangelists to equip the saints. **Let us look at three primary responsibilities that are to be accomplished by the one’s that God has called to be Evangelists.**

In II Timothy 4:2 Paul gives Timothy this specific charge as an evangelist: **“Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke, encourage with great patience and careful instruction.”** **This is the first work of the Evangelist.** This responsibility is to be accomplished based upon the truth of God’s Word. There is learning and preparation that must take place in order to accomplish this work. This is the reason that Paul stated in his first letter to Timothy (chapter 4) to watch out for false teachers who burden God’s people with their own laws. He is told to continue in His spiritual training. He is told to be an example in his speech, life, love, faith and purity. He is to devote himself to reading, preaching and studying God’s word.

Titus is another young man that Paul had set apart to the work of an Evangelist. In the first chapter of the letter entitled Titus, **Paul tells him to straighten out what was left unfinished (in the church)** and to ordain elders in every city. These are the second and third responsibilities of an Evangelist.

An Evangelist is to help to complete the building of the church upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets. In my limited experience as counselor, I have noticed that a chief complaint of wives is that their husband starts many things but fails to complete the work. Project after project is left unfinished. This causes great distress within the household and often leads to its destruction. This has happened time and time again within the Church of Christ. (I am not talking about the church building) People's lives are touched with the truth, but they never mature in the faith. Soon they become disillusioned and turn from the truth. **It is imperative for all things to be put in the order and completed according to the plan that God has given.**

**The Evangelist is also charged with the responsibility to ordain elders.** These are the men that we spoke of in the last two mini lessons. Note: No where in the Scripture is anyone other than an Evangelist told to ordain Elders. There is no Scriptural authority for the congregation or board to do any type of campaigning or voting in this regard. We must remember that the Elders are called to accomplish a work not to fill an office or position.

Nutshell study:

Jeremiah 23; The elders/Shepherds of Israel failed in their responsibility to tend the people of God, so in verse 4 God states that He will place Shepherds over His people.

Acts 20:28; Paul knew that God had done just that for His church as he recognizes the elders of the church at Ephesus as elders chosen by the Holy Spirit.

I Timothy 3:1-10 and in Titus 1:6-9; Paul tells these two Evangelists how to recognize the men that the Holy Spirit has chosen in the fulfilling of the prophecy of Jeremiah.

**Equipping the saints is a work in progress.** No one is born fully mature. We all need help as we grow and develop. **Praise God that He has provided for his household.** Like a good parent, God is always there. God provides for all of our needs that we might become complete not lacking anything!