

Church 101

Lesson 6

Evangelist

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: Though the terms missionary and evangelist are given a variety of meanings today they are really synonymous terms. The term missionary is not used in the Scriptures; it rather refers to one who is fulfilling the commission given to us by Christ. The Scriptural term referring to this work is evangelist. The ministry of the apostle Paul is a detailed example given to us in the Scriptures of the work of an evangelist. He clearly outlines throughout the book of Acts his ministry and how he performed the particular aspects of this ministry. The work of an evangelist can be summarized into four particular functions: 1) to preach the gospel 2) to make disciples and baptize (organizing them into a church) 3) confirming and strengthening the churches and 4) ordaining elders. (Acts 14:21-23) Failure to understand and practice these principles has caused a lot of confusion and mutation of this ministry.

The Scriptural pattern in the performance of missionary work is to send out men two by two to fulfill this ministry. This example is given in the life of Christ when He sent out the twelve and in His sending out the seventy. (Luke 9,10) Acts 13 is the other primary instance of evangelists being sent out and again they were sent out as a pair. The value of this is found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 *“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.”* What is also revealed in the passage in Acts 13 is that the men that were sent out were called by the Holy Ghost and ordained into the ministry by the laying on of the hands of the elders. Failure to have this clear and Divine leadership is presumption and not likely to have the blessing of the Lord upon it. However, when the evangelists and church are both in agreement as to the leadership of the Lord there is every expectation of His blessing.

There is also a clear distinction between the role of an evangelist and a pastor in the planting of churches. The men sent out in Scripture as evangelists were not the pastors of the churches which they started. The Evangelist's were likely elders in their sending church who exercised their gift in this particular ministry; there is not necessarily a separate office. In the churches that were started, they were making disciples and training men, with the belief that God would call men into the ministry to oversee the work He was doing. This is a major reason that there must be Divine leadership because only God can send laborers into His harvest.

Failure to function in this capacity causes an unhealthy dependence upon the evangelists that could be considered a form of 'spiritual welfare'. The converts must realize that the success of the church is dependent upon their continued spiritual growth. The evangelists are eventually going to leave and continue spreading the gospel elsewhere or return to their sending church.

The relationship between an evangelist and the sending church is a very vital relationship. Not only does the sending church authorize the evangelists for the work it also provides accountability to ensure that the ministry is being performed in a Scriptural manner. Not to mention the benefits of prayerful, financial, spiritual, and emotional support. In addition, having a "home church" helps to provide stability and lasting relationships for the family's involved. There is obviously much wisdom and protection by following the Scriptural pattern.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Evangelist** -

Greek: (2099) **euaggelistes** *yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace'* -

Quotation:

“This term occurs only three times. It seems to designate the itinerant ministry, or missionaries. Such were Apollos, Timothy, Titus, Silas, and Philip – men who, without permanent local charge, were ordained to preach the gospel, administer ordinances, and constitute and strengthen churches, either in regions unevangelized or among feeble churches. Thus Barnabas is sent from Jerusalem to Antioch to guide and assist in the great awakening in that heathen city. Silas and Timothy remain at Berea to organize and strengthen the infant church when Paul is driven away by persecution. Titus is left in Crete to “set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders in every city.” Hezekiah Harvey

“We have greater work to do here than merely securing our own salvation. We are members of the world and Church, and we must labor to do good to many. We are trusted with our Master’s talents for His service, in our places to do our best to propagate His truth, and grace, and Church, and to bring home souls, and honour His cause, and edify His flock, and further the salvation of as many as we can. All this is to be done on earth, if we will secure the end of all in heaven.” Richard Baxter

John Bunyan on evangelist: “A man, who had his eyes up to heaven, the best of books was in his hand, the law of truth was written upon his lips, and he stood as if he pleaded with men.”

“Oh if you have the hearts of Christians or of men in you, let them yearn towards your poor ignorant, ungodly neighbors. Alas, there is but a step betwixt them and death and hell; many hundred diseases are waiting ready to seize on them, and if they die unregenerate, they are lost forever. Have you hearts of rock, that cannot pity men in such a case as this? If you believe not the Word of God, and the danger of sinners, why are you Christians yourselves? If you do believe it, why do you not bestir yourself to the helping of others? Do you not care who is damned, so you be saved? If so, you have sufficient cause to pity yourselves, for it is a frame of spirit utterly inconsistent with grace... Dost thou live close by them, or sit and talk with them, and say nothing to them of their souls, or the life to come? If their houses were on fire, thou wouldst run and help them; and wilt thou not help them when their souls are almost at the fire of hell?” Richard Baxter

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. How did Christ numerically send out his disciples to preach the gospel?
2. How did Christ instruct his disciples to support themselves on their missions? (Luke 9-10)
3. Where did Paul and Barnabas go to first in each city to preach? (Acts 13)
4. Did Paul or Barnabas pastor any of the churches they started?

5. Did Paul go on deputation before his missionary journey? Who supported them?

6. Where were Paul and Barnabas sent out of?

7. What four steps of mission work are given in Acts 14:21-23?

8. What were the instructions if a city did not receive the gospel?

9. What are the benefits to the evangelist's by having a 'sending church'?

10. Why don't evangelists pastor the churches that they are involved in starting?

Key Scriptures: (*Look up these verses and fill in the blanks*)

Matthew 10:11-15 When Christ sent forth His disciples two by two, He told them to go into a city and discover who would listen and receive them. If they would not receive them, nor

___ ___ ___ their message they were told to ___ ___ ___ off the ___ ___ ___ from their feet.

Matthew 28:18-20 The commission given to a missionary is to ___ ___ ___ , baptize, and teach them to ___ ___ ___ all things that have been commanded.

Luke 10:1 Christ sent His messengers ___ ___ ___ and ___ ___ ___ into the places that He would

___ ___ ___.

Luke 10:16 To hear His messengers was the same as hearing Him and to despise the messengers is to despise the One who ___ ___ ___ them.

Acts 13:1-4 When God sent Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey, they were busy ministering. The Holy Ghost told the church to ___ ___ ___ them for the ___ ___ ___ He had called them to. The response of the church was to fast and pray before laying

_____ on them and sending them out. They are said to have been _____
_____ by the Holy Ghost.

Acts 14:21-23 The four aspects of the work of evangelism are to preach the _____, teach them, confirm the _____, and ordain _____ in every church.

Acts 14:26-28 After completing their first missionary journey Paul and Baranabas returned to _____ where they were recommended to God for the _____ which they fulfilled. When they arrived they first _____ the church and then they _____ what _____ had done with them. Afterward they remained a _____ with the church.

Acts 15:35-41 While they remained at Antioch they continued _____ and _____ the word. They then found it necessary to _____ the brethren and churches where they had already established churches to see how they were doing. Paul and Barnabas disagreed about taking John Mark with them and went separate ways. Again Paul was recommended by the brethren for his work of _____ the churches.

Acts 20:17-21 Paul describes how he had started the church in Ephesus. He kept back nothing that was _____ to them. He taught them _____ and from house to house. His message was _____ toward God and _____ toward Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 11:23 Paul had _____ to the church at Corinth how to observe the Lord's Supper.

Ephesians 4:11-12 Evangelists are a gift to the church to help perfect the _____.

I Timothy 1:3-4 Timothy's responsibility as an evangelist to Ephesus was to charge them to not teach false _____.

II Timothy 4:5 Timothy was challenged to do the _____ of an evangelist.

Titus 1:5 Titus was given the responsibility to _____ in _____ what was lacking and to ordain elders in every city as he was _____.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Acts 13

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: II Timothy 4:5

Personal definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Evangelist -

Personal confession: (*Study the confessions and summarize them in your own words*)

The work of an evangelist -

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*)

Why should an evangelist not be sent out by a mission board?

Would it be right for other churches to pay the pastors in our church?

Extra credit:

Search the internet and other resources and try to find evangelists that are sent out two by two that are not pastoring the church they are working with.