

What Do Evangelists Do 5/15/2016

1. We have looked at what elders are to do and to be.
2. We have looked at what deacons, “those who serve,”
are to do and to be.
3. I’m not sure,
but I think Chris talked last Sunday about
what Moms were to do and to be,
and if you don’t think they are leaders in the church,
I don’t know what planet you just arrived from.
4. I have found the church strangely quiet about
this next position of servant leadership,
almost like preachers are afraid to talk about it
or not allowed to talk about it or what.

We obsess about characteristics of elders and deacons,
but focus far less on what they are to do.

In this series of sermons, I have challenged that approach.
Elders need to shepherd and oversee;
they need to do fewer mundane tasks,
and more prayer and the ministry of the Word.

That is the work of deacons- to free up the elders
for the equipping of saints for works of ministry.
But there is another group included
in that passage in Eph. 4:11-12...
by now a familiar passage, hopefully, for all of us-

¹¹ So Christ himself gave some to be apostles,
some to be prophets, some to be evangelists,
some to be pastor/teachers,

¹² to equip his people for works of service...

Christ appointed some to be... evangelists.

WE call them preachers or ministers.

Deacons are to free THEM up

to do THEIR jobs, as well as the elders.

Elders and evangelists equip saints for works of ministry or service, but they do it in complementary ways.

Elders oversee and shepherd

(that means “caring for the sheep”).

So what do the evangelists do?

II Tim. 4:1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

**“Do the work of an evangelist”-
but what in the world does THAT mean?**

**Paul has just listed part of the job description...
Did you catch it?**

First, the preamble-

**In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who will judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,
I give you this charge:**

Why does Paul say all of this? This is serious stuff-

- 1. Recognizing the presence of God and Messiah Jesus,
who will be all of our judge, AND**
- 2. In view of the Second Coming AND His Kingdom...**

**Timothy, this stuff is no joke. Your calling is no joke,
and the needs of God’s people are no joke.**

Paul is about to die.

**The torch is about to be passed, to the next generation.
Timothy, realize the spiritual dimensions
to what you are called to do, the scope,
the scale of the work.**

**It’s not for a paycheck,
it’s not to be popular or possess power.
Remember who is watching and caring about
what and how you do what you do.**

Based on your Heavenly audience... Do...WHAT?

Lots of options here, as to what Paul COULD say next.

What DOES he choose to say next, after an intro like that?

What, when, how and why...

Here is the “what?”-

² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season;
correct, rebuke and encourage—
with great patience and careful instruction.

“Preach the Word”- the apostles were not to neglect
“the ministry of the Word” in order to wait on tables...
and neither are the elders or evangelists,
as Paul spells out right here.
(He’s going to elaborate on that in just a moment.)

HOW should Timothy preach the Word?

1. Be prepared, in season and out of season.
(There’s the “when.” What does he mean?)
2. Correct.
3. Rebuke.
4. Encourage.

HOW should those 4 things be done?

- “with great patience and careful instruction.”

How much time does it take, should it take, to be prepared,
to be able to preach, correct, rebuke, encourage,
with GREAT patience and CAREFUL instruction?

He doesn’t say- preach politics, or preach psychology,
or preach entertainment.

Apparently some of those things were options,
even in the 1st Century-

Which leads us to the “WHY?” preach the Word-

For the time will come
 when people will not put up with sound doctrine.
 Instead, to suit their own desires,
 they will gather around them a great number of teachers
 to say what their itching ears want to hear.
⁴ They will turn their ears
 away from the truth, and turn aside to myths.

What do you want to hear, brothers and sisters?

1. Are you here today because
 you want to hear funny stories?
 Comedy Central can do a far better job,
 and you can stay at home in your pajamas.
2. Are you here because morality should be flexible,
 culturally dependent, and, if not,
 you don't want to hear
 what God's Word really has to say?
3. Christianity is no longer "chic." Can't we jazz it up a bit?
 Its message is no longer relevant in our scientific,
 high-speed, information age.
4. It's not edgy enough, cool enough, sexy enough,
 provocative enough, self-gratifying enough.

"Preach the Word, Timothy, be prepared,
 in season and out of season."

⁵ But you, Timothy, keep your head in all situations,
 endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist,
 discharge all the duties of your ministry.
 Top of the list of the work of an evangelist,
 written to an evangelist, is "Preach the Word."

But wait, there's more...

We look at I and II Timothy and Titus,

books written to evangelists. What else do we find?

Titus 1:5

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

Titus 1:10-13

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. ¹¹ They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."^[c] ¹³ This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith...

2 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. ² Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

³ Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

⁴ Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

(Don't just preach the Word of God yourself.

**Encourage others to live lives that will
reflect positively on the Word of God.)**

⁶ Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

⁹ Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, ¹⁰ and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

Translation- sermons should be practical.

Healthy, “sound” doctrine has more to do with
how we treat others on a daily basis,
than on us getting every little detail right
about things that we fight about.

And the very next verse points out the basis
for everything we do in the sound doctrine,
“treating others right” dept.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

¹⁵ These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

What else are we evangelists supposed to do?

Titus 3

3 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone...

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy...

⁸ This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.

⁹ But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.

¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.

We haven't even gotten to I and II Timothy, but you can employ the same approach on your own. Look for the commands or imperatives addressed to preachers. I think it will surprise you what the priorities really are.

Summary statements-

- 1. Based on the grace of God, preach and teach how to practically live out the grace of God.**
- 2. Help people learn to be eager to do what is good.**
- 3. Don't major in the minors, but keep 1st things 1st.**

4. Set an example for the believers
in life, in faith, in speech and in purity,
but keep preaching and teaching in the forefront.
5. Equip saints for works of ministry,
but don't do for them
things they should be doing for themselves.

The church wants us to do

1. all the hospital visiting,
2. all the evangelism,
3. to spearhead every program,
4. to be administrators,
5. To be everybody's best friend,
6. to do all the counseling,
7. visitation, follow-up,
8. and participate in every program.

But it is through the Scriptures that we

“become wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus...”
(II Tim. 3:15)

Paul knew Timothy and Titus

could easily get diverted to doing a thousand other things,
good things, helpful things.

But as evangelists,

they needed to use their unique gifts
to accomplish a few very important things.

Chris and I should serve and visit and pray with

and care for folks because we are Christians,
and because we are trying to model good examples,
but we are no more tasked to do those things
than each of you.

