

THE EVANGELIST AND THE CARE OF THE CHURCH

(1 and 2 Timothy and Titus)

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The Nature Of The Gospel's "Great Commission" Demands Evangelism: The Teaching, Preaching Or Sharing Of The Good News Of Salvation In Christ. (*Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16*)
- B. The Preached Gospel Brings Results. (*Acts 2:22-41*)
- C. The Results Of The Preached Gospel Are Newborn Spiritual Babes In Christ Who Must Be Nourished To Maturity. (*Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet. 2:1-3*)
- D. The Continuation Of Apostolic Evangelism Demands Evangelists. The Work Of An Evangelist Is Evangelism. The Continued Result Of Evangelism Is The Evangelized. The Continued Need Of The Evangelized Is Maturity.
- E. Thus We Are To Mobilize, Baptize And Stabilize. Our Study of *1 And 2 Timothy And Titus*, Is To See The Need Of Those Who Have Been "Mobilized" (The Evangelist) And Those Who Have Been Baptized (The Local Congregation).

II. AIM.

- A. To Present An Overview Of The Major Teachings Of These Three Letters.
- B. To Specifically See The Need Of Sound Character And Doctrine In Those Who Lead And Care For The Church.

III. OUTLINE.

- A. THE ANALYSIS OF *1 and 2 Timothy AND Titus*.
 1. The approximate date of the writings. Paul wrote *1 Timothy* in the years 63 - 65 A.D., after his release from Roman imprisonment. *Titus* was probably written shortly after *1 Timothy*, possibly the same year. Upon Paul's second arrest, and while imprisoned at Rome, he wrote *2 Timothy* (his last epistle) in 64 - 68 A.D. (*Cf. 2 Tim. 4:6-8*)

2. The purpose of the writings.

- a. To answer the needs of a young church and a young evangelist.
- b. The church needed to know her doctrine, her worship, her organization, how to care for her members and how the members were to behave.
- c. The evangelist needed to be reminded of his work and to be encouraged to "fulfill his ministry" by "setting in order the things that were lacking" and to live a pure life. (*1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:5; Titus 1:5*)

3. The theme of the writings: "PREACH AND TEACH THE WORD."

- a. Evangelist. (*1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 2:2; 2:24; 4:2; Titus 2:1*)
- b. Elders. *1 Tim. 3:2* - "apt to teach"; *5:17* - "labor in the word and in teaching"; *Titus 1:9* - "hold to the faithful word..."

B. THE EVANGELIST.

1. The word evangelist defined.

- a. The Greek word - εὐαγγελιστῆς - evangelistes - "a bringer of good tidings." Other forms of this word mean, to preach the gospel - the good news.
- b. For there to be evangelism, there must be evangelists.
- c. The office of an evangelist in the church. (*Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5 cf. Acts 21:8*) It, like the office of an elder, is a work to be done, not an office to hold. (*Cf. 1 Tim. 3:1*)

2. The work of an evangelist described. WHAT HE IS TO DO.

- a. He is to preach "sound doctrine" and charge others to do so. (*1 Tim. 1:3-11, 18-20; Chapter 4; 6:3-11; 2 Tim. 1:13*)
- b. He is to command and teach what is written (*1 Tim. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:1-2*) (which is his only authority).

- c. He is to teach men how to behave in the church. (*1 Tim. 3:15*)
 - d. He is to train faithful men to teach other faithful men. (*2 Tim. 2:2*)
 - e. He is to reprove them that sin, in the sight of all. (*1 Tim. 5:20; Titus 1:13*)
 - f. He is to avoid contradictory ideas, stupid godless fictions, speculations and unchristian babblings. (*1 Tim. 6:20; 4:7; 1:4; 2 Tim. 2:14 cf. 2 Tim. 2:18*)
 - g. He is to appoint elders. (*Titus 1:5*)
 - 1) We are not told in scripture how they were appointed.
 - 2) That the local congregation is not excluded from a cooperative effort in the selecting and setting of these men into the office may be ascertained by the following scripture: *Acts 14:23* (as to practice); *Acts 1:23-24; 6:1-6* (as to selection).
 - h. He is to evangelize by preaching the gospel. (*Titus 2:11 - 3:7*)
3. The manner of life, of the evangelist, that is demanded. WHAT HE IS TO BE!
- a. He must be prayerful. (*1 Tim. 2:1-2*)
 - b. He must be nourished by God's Word. (*1 Tim. 4:6, 13*)
 - c. He must be an example. (*1 Tim. 4:12*)
 - d. He must be pure in character. (*1 Tim. 5:22; 2 Tim. 2:22*)

NOTE: There must be a balance between lip and life. (*Cf. Phil. 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17, 18*)

NOTE: Someone has said: "Unless there is within us that which is above us, we shall soon yield to that which is around us."

NOTE: "Take care of your character and the Lord will take care of your reputation." Character is what you are. Reputation is what others think you are. What we are determines the value of everything we do! "BUT THOU O MAN OF GOD..." (1 Tim. 6:11) speaks a volume.

- e. He must be willing to suffer hardship with the gospel. (2 Tim. 1:8)
 - f. He must not be prejudiced nor partial toward anyone. (1 Tim. 5:21)
 - g. He must have his hope set on God (1 Tim. 4:9); a faith that is not masked (hypocritical) (2 Tim. 1:5); a love and gentleness toward men (2 Tim. 2:24).
 - h. He must be unashamed of the gospel in any and every setting. (2 Tim 1:8)
4. The Apostle Paul charged Timothy and Titus to do a particular work. To accomplish this work, they would have to be qualified for the job and they were, as seen above.
- C. THE CARE AND CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH IS THE RESULT OF THE EVANGELIST'S WORK.
- 1. The concern for the church to be properly fed. (Sound, healthful doctrine). (1 Tim. 1:3-11, 18-20 cf. Titus 1:9 - 2:1)
 - 2. The concern for the church to be properly led. (Elders and deacons). (Cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9)
 - a. The following three Greek words are translated by six English words, all of which describe the same official work:
 - 1) Episkopon - επισκοπον - "One who looks or watches over, literally an overseer" - corresponds to bishop and overseer. (1 Tim. 3:1)
 - 2) Poimainein - ποιμαίνειν - which means to shepherd - translated in Acts 20:28 "to feed" the church which is the poimnio, or the "flock." Pastors or shepherds, from the Greek word ποιμενας. (Cf.

Eph. 4:11)

- 3) Presbuteros - πρεσβυτερος - translated presbyter *1 Tim. 4:14*, and elders *1 Tim. 5:17*.
 - 4) These men feed and care for the flock as pastors and shepherds; watch over and have the oversight as bishops and overseers. (*Cf. Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4*)
- b. Deacons (Greek δῆκονος - diakonos) are servants of the church. (*Cf. 1 Tim. 3:13; Acts 6:1-3*) They are under the oversight of the eldership just as well as the evangelists who serve the local church.
 - c. Elders were to be appointed by the evangelist. (*Titus 1:5*) To appoint, means, to set forth; to commission them to do the job for which they have been selected, seems to be the idea.
3. Those for whom the church should have care and concern. (*1 Tim. 5:1 - 6:2*)
 - a. Care of the young and old. (*5:1-2*)
 - b. Care of widows. (*5:3-16 cf. Acts 6:1-6*)
 - 1) Widows indeed - a genuine deserving widow. Notice her three qualities.
 - a) "Desolate" - all alone and uncared for.
 - b) "Hath her hope set on God." (*Cf. 1 Kings 17:8-12, a widow of great faith*)
 - c) She is prayerful without ceasing. (*vs. 3, 5*)
 - 2) Widows with children. (*ver. 4*) Children are to honor their parents by taking care of them when they cannot care for themselves.
 - a) "Learn" to do this even if it means self-denial.

- b) "Requite" means to return or repay.
- c) An old Dutch proverb says: "It frequently seems easier for one poor father to bring up ten children, than for ten rich children to provide for one poor father."

NOTE: Joseph's love for his father.
 (Gen. 45:9-13; 46:28-34; 47:
 7, 27-31; 50:1-14)

- 3) Undeserving widows. (*ver. 6*) Dead, but alive!
 - 4) Enrolled widows. (*vs. 9-10*) We actually do not know what this word "enrolled" implies. It means to place on the list. It may have been for the purpose of supporting these widows while they rendered a service to the church.
 - 5) Younger widows. (*5:11-15*) These widows were not to be enrolled, it seems, but rather encouraged to marry.
- c. Care of elders. (*5:17-19*)
 - d. Care of slaves. (*6:1-2*)
4. The conduct of those in the church. (*Titus 2: 1-5*)
- a. Older men. (*2:1-2*)
 - b. Older women. (*2:3*)
 - c. Young women. (*2:4-5*)
 - d. Young men. (*2:6-8*)
 - e. Slaves. (*2:9-10*)
 - f. The motive for this conduct. (*2:11-15*)

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. The Evangelist Is Charged To Be A Good Minister And To Do The Work Of An Evangelist For Two Ultimate Reasons: To Save Himself And Those Who Hear Him. (*1 Tim. 4:16*)

- B. The Elders Are To Be Men With Certain Qualifications So That They May "Take Care Of The Church Of God."
(1 Tim. 3:5)
- C. The Church Is To Behave Itself In The Body And In The World That The Doctrine Of Christ Might Be Adorned. (1 Tim. 3:15; Titus 2:10)
1. We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb - Let's act like it. (Titus 2:10-14a)
 2. We have been sanctified by that redemption - Let's work like it. (Titus 2:14b; 3:8b, 14)