

## Clarifying **Some** Misunderstood Things About Evangelists

### I. Introduction:

A. Preachers of the Gospel of Christ are also called evangelists (**Acts 21:8**).

1. Evangelists have a work ["occupation" (Strong's # 2041)] to do (**II Timothy 4:1-5**).

a. An evangelist is worthy of wages (**I Corinthians 9:6-14**).

b. He does NOT work for money though (**I Corinthians 4:11-12** and **Philippians 4:10-18**).

2. In short, more than a "job", the work of an evangelist is to **give his life to** learning, teaching, and living the Gospel (**I Timothy 4:12-16**).

B. Recently, I have heard..

1. "Aren't we all evangelists?" - NO (**Ephesians 4:11**).

2. "Can an evangelist really get involved in controlling things?" - To some degree – YES (**I Timothy 1:3-7**).

3. Thus, I find it necessary to Scripturally clarify **some** things...

### II. Body: Know Them Which Labor Among You (**I Thessalonians 5:12-13**).

A. As we enter our study, we have to be careful to discern that there is a difference between an evangelist, Apostle, etc. (again; **Ephesians 4:11**).

1. Some Apostles were also evangelists or elders (**II Timothy 1:11** and **I Peter 1:1; I Peter 5:1**).

2. That makes it hard sometimes to discern what Scriptures are about evangelist, and which are not. Be careful (**II Timothy 2:14-18**).

3. Example, an elder is limited in his work by location (**I Peter 5:1-2**), but we will see that an evangelist is not.

B. Evangelists have authority when it comes to teaching, setting things in order, etc. (**Titus 1:5** and **Titus 2:15**).

1. However, evangelists do not just have free reign or high prestige that some want (**I Corinthians 3:4-11** and **I Corinthians 4:1-6**).

2. Apostles were ambassadors for Christ (**Ephesians 6:20**), evangelists teach what they taught (**I Corinthians 4:17** and **II Timothy 2:2**).

3. When “setting things in order” evangelists have no place to decide for congregations what is most expedient for the local saints. I.E. times to assemble (**I Corinthians 11:33**).

a. A congregation can be told to take up a collection for truly needy saints (**I Corinthians 16:1-2**).

b. Yet, they have the choice locally in who to give those funds to (**I Corinthians 16:3-4**).

C. Evangelists may live in a certain location (again; **Acts 21:8**), but we are not limited to one location (**Philippians 2:19-25** and **I Thessalonians 3:1-2**).

1. Evangelists may communicate with brethren and congregations even when not physically present (**II Corinthians 1:1**, **Philippians 1:1**, **Colossians 1:1**, **I Thessalonians 1:1**, and **II Thessalonians 1:1**).

2. I am currently active in communicating with members of churches of Christ on six continents in this world (i.e. Perth in Western Australia [Errol Taylor], India [Siva Kumarm], Talca Chile [Carlos R. Bello Venegas], France [Francis Niolas], Africa [Samuel Nandy], Idaho [Chris Cox], and many more). \*Not saying these are faithful brethren (**Matthew 7:15-20**)! No one in Antarctica unfortunately.

3. A congregation can send an evangelist elsewhere for certain terms to do the work of an evangelist (**Acts 13:1-3** and **Acts 15:1-31**) and come back to report (**Acts 14:24-27**). \* It should be noted that an evangelist does have say in where he goes (**I Corinthians 16:12**).

D. An evangelist has taken on a work that puts his soul at greater jeopardy than others (**James 3:1**)

1. A faithful evangelist cares more for your soul than his own (cf. **Romans 9:1-3**).

2. It is too often a one-way love (**II Corinthians 12:15**).

3. Therefore, remember, the faithful evangelist isn't doing “it” for himself (**II Corinthians 4:15**; cf. **II Timothy 2:10**).

III. Conclusion: Maybe with some of these clarifications on the work of an evangelist, you can help those who have faithfully chosen that life and appreciate the depth of such work (**I Corinthians 16:15-18**).