

A Church of Evangelists
By Trey Sullins

Would you call yourself an evangelist? The word evangelist refers to someone who brings good tidings. In a spiritual context the evangelist brings the gospel or the good news. In fact, the word often translated “gospel” in our English versions comes from the Greek word “euaggelizō.” This Greek word is actually where our English word for evangelism comes from. Jesus brought the good news of God to this earth so that we might change, learn, and evangelize the world as well (Matthew 28:18-20).

Being an evangelizer requires preparation. Imagine if today you decided to take a vehicle’s engine apart but did not prepare for it. You would probably not know how to do it, you would not have the proper tools, and you would possibly destroy the engine beyond repair. This is what would happen if we approached our evangelism job with the same lack of preparation; however, instead of damaging an engine we might damage someone’s opportunity to be saved! 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Paul was encouraging Timothy to do what was necessary and right so that he would be presented approved. The word “diligent” means to “exert oneself.” In light of such a huge task, it is a great thing that God has provided all we need in order to be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The evangelist must also be a person of action. What if the person who cured the common cold hid the cure in a safe and never shared it with anyone. Would that cure do any good? Certainly not! In the same way the gospel of Jesus Christ is not affective if it is not used. This is the very message being presented in Romans 10:14: “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” The work of an evangelist is necessary in order to help so many more come to Christ. Being an evangelist of action also means that we cannot be ashamed of the gospel in any way. In Romans 1:16 Paul declares, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” An unashamed Christian is a Christian who will take the gospel to everyone that they know.

A proper evangelist is also dedicated. There’s a lot of things in life that we might start and then stop before completion. As a great example, we all probably have a list of chores around our homes that have gone unfinished! In the case of evangelizing though, we need dedication. The word “dedication” carries the idea of single-minded devotion to a job. A dedicated person would never stop until the task is complete. Because there are always more people needing the gospel, a dedicated evangelist would never stop evangelizing. The book of Acts and particularly the life of Paul provide us with great examples of this. Paul and these others seem to always be about the work constantly travelling and teaching everyone they came across. Our responsibility is to pattern ourselves after these great examples and be dedicated to the cause of Christ.

Consider the song *You Never Mentioned Him to Me*. The song portrays the sad reality of one who knew a Christian, but that Christian never took the time to speak about the Christ. Let that never be us in our lives. We know so many that need the gospel, and in many cases, we might be the closest connection some have to the gospel. We must be evangelists who are prepared, take action,

and are dedicated to our mission. Let us make sure that the words of that sad song are never said to us!