

EVANGELISTS

2 Timothy 4:5 *But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

EXAMPLES OF EVANGELISTS

The New Testament has a number of people who are identified specifically as evangelists, and as well many who are inferred to be evangelists. Phillip (one of the seven of Acts 6) is called an evangelist in Acts 21:8. Paul is called a preacher in 1 Timothy 2:7. Men who were charged with the work of preaching include Timothy (2 Timothy 2:4) and the apostles (Mark 16:15). Men of whom it is inferred were preachers include Titus (Titus 2:1), Apollos (Acts 18:27), and likely most of Paul's travelling companions (2 Corinthians 1:19).

There is some debate on whether an evangelist is a work of the local church or the universal church. In the list of Ephesians 4:11-12, the evangelist might be tied either to the universal or to the local. Most likely, the work of an evangelist is a work in the local church. First of all, the offices/works of the universal church (Head, apostles, prophets) are all filled and completed. For an evangelist to be an office of the universal church, he would have to be an exception to the rule. It does not seem likely that the evangelist is meant to join those laborers. Second, almost all of the purposes and works an evangelist is to do is directed towards the local church (see the list of duties below). Indeed, it is the local church that selects an evangelist; indicating that the work of the evangelist is under the local church's oversight.

QUALIFICATIONS OF EVANGELISTS

Many do not consider the idea of the qualifications of an evangelist. Every office in the church (whether universal or local) has qualifications that make it a "calling". The idea of a "calling" is that the Holy Spirit, by revealing the qualities of the man for that office, "calls" one through those qualifications. We find that the qualifications of one called to be an evangelist are found in 2 Timothy 2:24-26. We also can see qualifications indirectly mentioned when Paul describes the work of an evangelist in subsequent passages.

Qualifications of Evangelists in II Timothy 2:24-26		
Stated Qualification (NKJV)	Greek Word and meaning (Strong's)	Comments
A man		It is seen that all evangelists in Scriptures were men. It is inferred that because of the command not to speak (authoritatively) in the assembly, women cannot be called to this work
A man - servant	<i>doulos</i> : man slave	An evangelist is a servant of Christ and servant of the congregation

Does not quarrel	<i>machomai</i> : to fight or war	Similar to the elder's qualification of not being a striker or fighter
Gentle	<i>epios</i> : mild or kind, gentle	One of several similar qualities (patient and meek)
Apt to teach	<i>didaktikos</i> : able to teach	Another quality shared with elders
Patient	<i>anexikakos</i> : enduring of ill, patient	These three qualities are tied to teaching
Meekly instructing	<i>praotes</i> : gentleness, humility/meekness	These three qualities are tied to teaching
Meekly instructing	<i>paideuo</i> : to train up a child; educate	These three qualities are tied to teaching

DUTIES OF THE EVANGELIST

Our best examples of the duties of the evangelist are found in admonitions given to Titus and Timothy by Paul brethren to work for the Lord. All of the duties mentioned in the New Testament for the evangelist are directed to the local church. By inference and example in Paul and Silas we also see the need to teach the lost.

Paul commends both Titus and Timothy to the work of organizing the structure of the local church with teachers, elders and deacons. There are some questions on this work. First, it may be that the authority to appoint is not direct, but through the Scriptures. In other words, Timothy is to teach those qualities and qualifications that are necessary for these works. Thus his work of appointment is accomplished by teaching the things Paul commanded. Paul does warn Timothy not to "lay hands on anyone hastily" in 1 Timothy 5:22, suggesting some more direct role. But this may only be in circumstances when elders are not present.

Duties of Evangelists in II Timothy 4:2-5	
Preach the word	kerusso logos: herald or proclaim, the word
Preparation (be ready)	ephistemi: to be present or at hand
Convince	elegcho: to admonish or convict
Rebuke	epitimaō: tax, censure or forbid
Exhort	parakaleo: to call near (to encourage behavior)
Patience and longsuffering	makrothumia kia didache: long suffering & teaching
Be watchful	nepho: abstain from wine (be vigilant)
Do the work of an evangelist	ergon euaggelistes: work as one with good news
Duties of Evangelists in I Timothy 4:13-16	
give attention to reading	anagnosis: (the act of) reading:--reading.

give attention to doctrine	didaskalia: instruction (the function or the information):-- doctrine, learning, teaching.
Meditate (on the above)	meletao: to revolve in the mind
Duties of Evangelists in II Timothy 2:15	
Study	spoudazo: to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest:--do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.
Shun idle and profane babblers	<i>periistemi</i> : to stand all around and prevent bystanders
Duties of Evangelists in Titus 2:1-10	
Speak sound doctrine	The doctrine of Christ is the entire New Testament. Paul tells timothy in 1 Timothy 3:15 that the purpose of the letter is how to conduct oneself in the church
Demonstrating a pattern of good works	An evangelist is to be a model of the things he teaches
Duties of Evangelists in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3	
Appoint elders	<i>For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you</i>
Appoint deacons	<i>Likewise deacons.....</i>
Duties of Evangelists in 1 Timothy 1:3-4	
Appoint teachers	<i>charge some that they teach no other doctrine</i>