

## Doing the Work of an Evangelist

By Pastor Larry Carr

**E**vangelism isn't just the preachers "job," but it's the call of every born-again child of God. It is true that the apostle Paul commands Timothy, the preacher, to "do the work of an evangelist," but that does not mean that his command is exclusive to preachers any more than his command to "endure afflictions" would be something only preachers should practice. Evangelism is at the heart of the Great Commission and therefore, it employs every person who is a true disciple of Jesus Christ to tell the "Good News" of Christ's salvation offered to mankind. What then is "the work of an evangelist"?

The word "evangelist" in 2 Timothy 4:5 means to be "a bringer of good tidings." If ever the world needed the message of good news, it needs it today. False religions, gloom and doom forecasts, the pseudo-science of evolution and its cosmogonical chaos, the existential philosophy of relativism, all of these ideologies leave the world groping hopelessly in darkness. Unfortunately, many Christians are becoming ensnared in this "hopeless" attitude of the world.

Jesus referred to His followers in the kingdom as children of Light. In Matthew 5:14, He says, "Ye are the light of the world." It is not becoming to our Savior when we as His disciples hide in the dark shadows of a worldly system that offers no hope to men when we have the answer, the good news, to meet their needs. But evangelism is what we ought to be part of our Christian occupation.

Doing the "work" of an evangelist means to be engaged in the business or the undertaking of communicating the gospel. This does not mean that our efforts supersede the power or working of God. No flesh can accomplish what God has called us to do as evangelists. We must be careful that we not try to do God's work in the power of the flesh. But evangelism involves confronting people in conversation with the "Good News" of salvation through Jesus Christ and then relying upon the power and work of God to save that soul. So Paul gives commandment to do the "work" of telling the good news. In other words, if we neglect to tell other about the Lord and His salvation, we are disobeying this command and others like it in the Bible and that is sin.

God has placed you in a part of the world where you may be the only witness for Christ to someone. Let's be employed in our roll as evangelists, and share the gospel where God has placed us.

*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra 7:10*

**I**n preparation for the morning worship services this month, please open your Bible to the Scripture passage for the corresponding Sunday and spend a few minutes before the service to direct your thoughts to the Word of God and to pray for God's work to be done in your life as His Word is preached.

### May 7, 2006

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-32

Meditation: According to verses 1-3, what should be the characteristics of our walk with the Lord? According to verse 7, what is the basis of the measure of grace given to each one of us? Have you received the gift of Christ? According to verses 11-16, what is the purpose of the pastor? Are you prepared in your heart to receive the instruction from the Word of God that your pastor will proclaim today?

### May 14, 2006

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 1:1-9

Meditation: What is the purpose of the Book of Proverbs? According to verse 7, what is the foundation or the beginning of knowledge? According to verse 8, God uses the father and mother as His instruments to train a child. How is the child commanded to receive this training? The Hebrew word translated "instruction" in verse 8 of the KJV conveys the idea of "chastening or

discipline," whereas the word "law" in this context can mean "direction, custom and manner." What does this passage teach us about the role parents have in working together to raise their children? As fathers, do you take an active part in the discipline and instruction of your children? As mothers, are you instructing your children in the things that pertain to godliness?

### May 21, 2006

Scripture Reading: I Thess. 4:13-18

Meditation: Who will Jesus bring with Him when He returns? Who will rise first? Those that are asleep in Jesus and who are dead in Christ have the promise of being resurrected. What should we do with these words?

### May 28, 2006

Scripture Reading: James 5:1-11

Meditation: Verses 1-6 speak about those who oppress others to increase their wealth. What shall happen to those riches according to this passage? What does this passage teach about fraud? Living in a world where such tactics are used to increase riches, what does this passage teach us that our attitude should be under such conditions? According to verse 8, what should be the focus of our patience and the stability of our hearts? Are you looking for the coming of the Lord? What warning is given in verse 9 to us about holding a grudge toward another brother? According to verse 11, who are the happy, or the blessed?