

Doing the Work of an Evangelist

By Doug Hamilton

Review from Lesson One

Paul wrote Timothy in his closing charge to do the work of an evangelist. *2 Timothy 4:1-2 and 5*, “*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction ...But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*” The work of the young first-century evangelist was much more than preaching the word on a Sunday morning. It also included reproving, rebuking, exhorting, patience, instruction, enduring hardship and even missions. Doing the work of an evangelist is a diverse plethora of responsibilities.

I am going to be headed to my new job at New Road church of Christ in Waco, TX by the end of February. As indicated by the elders of Camp Hill two weeks ago, there is not a plan in the foreseeable future to hire another full time evangelist. This means that you, the congregation, will be forced to *Do the work of an Evangelist*.

The first area of the work of an evangelist discussed was evangelism. There are many responsibilities which must be assumed by the members of the congregation. On the back wall of the auditorium is a group of classified ads for the members to sign up for these responsibilities. This is why I refer to these lessons as the “Classified Sermons”. In this lesson we will examine the work of an evangelist under the topic of education.

2) Education

In *2 Timothy 2:15* Paul instructed Timothy, “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*” The word that Paul uses in this verse is that of a stone mason. They were the people that would gather a pile of stones in order to assemble for a wall or some other structure. They did not simply mortar the stones together, resulting in a crooked wall and shame to the stone mason. Instead they started with the goal of having a straight wall, resulting in cutting the stones and properly fitting them into the proper position. Timothy, the evangelist, was to take the whole word of God and make it harmonized together. In that way he was to be the unashamed workman of the word.

- a. Personal Bible Studies -*2 Timothy 2:2*, “*The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*”
 - i. There is great value in taking a young Christian aside and mentoring him or her. We live in a fast-paced world where generations of the youth have not been taught in the way that they should have been. Paul personally mentored many young men in the faith.
 - He personally studied with, converted, and mentored an escaped slave named Onesimus. *Philemon 10-11*, *I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment, who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.*

Doing the Work of an Evangelist

By Doug Hamilton

- He personally studied with, converted, and mentored Timothy in the faith. *1 Corinthians 4:17, “For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.”*
- He personally studied with and mentored a gentile named Titus. *Titus 1:4, “To Titus, my true child in a common faith...”*

Over the past fifteen years I have personally studied the Bible with dozens of individuals for the purpose of growing them in their faith. With my departure and the fact that there will not be a full-time evangelist here leaves a void.

Position Open: Personal Mentors

The Camp Hill church of Christ is seeking for mature men and women who are willing to enter long-term mentoring relationships of teaching younger Christians. Expect to spend one to three years with each individual, helping them to become teaching mentors for others. Those interested can contact the elders for further details.

- b. Small-group Bible Studies -2 Timothy 3:14-15, *“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
 - i. Church growth has and always will strive on a small-group home Bible study program. Jesus’ ministry on earth was filled with small-group Bible studies.
 - Mark 9:31 states, *“...He was teaching His disciples...”*
 - He taught His disciples to pray in Luke 11:1.
 - He taught His disciples a lesson on “Water to Wine” in the home of the wedding party in John 2.
 - While in a house away from the crowd, He taught His disciples a series of parables in Matthew 13, emphasizing evangelistic outreach.
 - He taught the lesson that “God Loves Everyone” to a small group of sinner and tax-gatherers” in Matthew 9.
 - Immediately after that He entered a blind man’s home and taught a lesson on Faith (Mt 9).
 - He taught a lesson about His anointment for burial before the disciples at the home of Simon the leper in Matthew 26:6-13.

Doing the Work of an Evangelist

By Doug Hamilton

- He taught the lesson of “Faith in the Midst of the Storm” for His disciples from bow of a small vessel from which He slept in chapter eight of Luke.
 - He taught the lesson of “Loving One Another” for these disciples from the large upper room of an unnamed owner in John 13.
- ii. The apostles continued the same strategy as taught by Jesus. From the infancy of the church, small-group home Bible studies were quite prevalent.
- Acts 2:46-47, “Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart...”
 - Acts 5:42, And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.
 - Acts 20:20-21, “...how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house ²¹ solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Without doubt they taught in different formats (the Temple, the synagogues, in the mountains), but it was the small group setup that made the greatest difference. They clearly followed the pattern of Jesus.

Over the past fifteen years I have taught more than 200 small-group home Bible series at this congregation. Some of the topics and Books covered have been:

- Gospel Rehabilitation Therapy
- Dealing with Loss
- How to Develop Bible Material
- The Afterlife
- Angelogy
- Systematic Theology
- Dealing With Temptation
- Dealing With Suffering
- How to Study the Bible
- Generational Curses
- Corporate Worship
- Evolution
- Proving the Resurrection of Jesus
- Spiritual Giftedness
- The Five Love Languages
- Biblical Eating
- Biblical Parenting
- All of the Books of the New Testament
- Nearly two dozen Books from the Old Testament.

Doing the Work of an Evangelist

By Doug Hamilton

I am about to leave this congregation and there is an opening in this effort for small-group home Bible studies. Please understand that you do not have to head up all the small-groups, but possibly just one. If ten people take the responsibility of just one small-group, then the void could be met. There is officially an opening!

Position Open: Small-group Home Bible Study Facilitators

The Camp Hill church of Christ is seeking for Christians who are willing to set up and teach meaningful small-group home Bible studies. The purpose of the small-group studies will not only better educate Christians, but also further fellowship among the flock. Those interested can contact Doug Hamilton or the elders for further details.

c. Confrontation

Timothy was taught to confront issues that needed to be challenged. It was not that he wanted to, but that he needed to. Confronting false teaching and false living is yet another method of teaching.

- i. 2 Timothy 4:15, “Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.”
- ii. 1 Timothy 5:19-20, “Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses.²⁰ Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful *of sinning*.”
- iii. 1 Timothy 6:17, “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”

Instruction and confrontation go hand in hand in the church. When a new Christian is born-again into the kingdom of God, they do not know everything needed. They will make mistakes as they struggle to correct their way of living. To him who knows to do good and does it not, to him it is sin (James 4:17). Sometimes Timothy the evangelist was expected to confront as a method of teaching. It is part of the work of the evangelist.

You might not know that I cannot resist saying something if I see something. I am a confronter and have taught this to many members of the congregation. I have personally started church discipline over a hundred times in fifteen years. Most of the time you never heard about it because the problem was corrected in privacy. With my departure there is an open position available.

Doing the Work of an Evangelist
By Doug Hamilton

Position Open: People Willing to Speak Up

The Camp Hill church of Christ is seeking for brothers and sisters in Christ who are willing to stand up against false teaching and false living within the church family. They must possess a good biblical knowledge. Those interested can contact Doug Hamilton or the elders for further details.

d. Leadership Development

Paul empowered the young evangelist in 1 Timothy 3:1-2, "*It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.*"² *An overseer, then, must be...*" Leaders are not born, but are developed.

I have done my best over the last fifteen years to encourage leadership development of others. I have taken men aside and trained them to do the work of an evangelist, of elders, of deacons and teachers. With my departure there is yet another job opening in the congregation.

Position Open: Leadership Development Coordinators

The Camp Hill church of Christ is seeking for men and women to assist in the development of future leaders for the church. The candidates must possess passion, patience and persuasion to encourage young men and women to become future preachers, elders, deacons, teachers, elder's wives and deacon's wives. Those interested can contact the elders for further details.