

“EVANGELIST”

The word “**EVANGELIST**” appears with reference to a preacher of the Gospel of Christ. There is a man in the New Testament that is referred to as an “**Evangelist**,” *“8 And on the morrow we departed, and came unto Caesarea: and entering into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we abode with him,”* Acts 21:8. There was a young man, *“16 And he came also to Derbe and to Lystra; and behold a certain disciple there named Timothy, the son of a Jewess that believed; but his father was a Greek. 2 The same was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and he took and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those parts: for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 And as they went on their way through the cities, they delivered them the decrees to keep which had been ordained of the apostles and elders that were at Jerusalem,”* Acts 16:1-4. This young man, TIMOTHY, is referred to as an “**evangelist**,” *“5 But be thou sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist,”* II Tim. 4:5. It can truthfully be said, of these two men, were evangelist of Christ – proclaimers of good news about Jesus Christ.

In Eph. 4:11 we have a list showing men of different works, *offices: “11 And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers;”* Eph. 4:11. In this text we have different works with different offices. One should note, there is a distinction made between “the evangelist,” and the other offices – apostle, prophet, including pastors, etc. This then brings us to the next point.

I have heard the argument made that a “**Pastor**” is a local teacher, preacher for some denomination in town. An “**Evangelist**” is one who goes across the land proclaiming the gospel, (that is what they call him when he preaches in evangelistic meetings, like those of Billy Graham), of Christ. **Philip** and **Timothy** did go about preaching the Gospel; but, they also resided in **local works** at different times. Timothy spent time in the church at Ephesus, I Tim. 1:3, and Philip had been about twenty years in Caesarea, Acts 21:8. When one considers the qualifications given for Elders, I Tim. 3; Tit. 1, immediately he recognizes there is to be a difference between an evangelist and a pastor, elder. Peter refers to himself as being a fellow elder, I Pet. 5:1. Uniformly there is always a plurality of elders serving together over a congregation, Acts 14:23.

Through the years I have been asked, *“Who ordained you to be an evangelist?”* My answer has always been, Jesus. Through his word he encourages men to be evangelist, preachers of his word. *“2 And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others,”* II Tim. 2:2. I am mindful there are those who will sell you a license to be a preacher for a certain amount of money; but, that is the working of man and not of God. My authority to preach the Gospel is just that. To preach any **other message** is not authorized of God.

My brethren have tried to tell me an evangelist is not a minister; that, it is wrong to use the word “**minister!**” *“5 But be thou sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil thy ministry,”* II Tim. 4:5. For a person to have a ministry, he would have to be a “**MINISTER!**” Caa

Carl Adon Allen
1115 E. Houston Ave.
Crockett, Tx. 75835 -1760
(936) 544-3614
carladonallen@gmail.com