

### Why Summit School of Preaching?

When the Lord left this earth we are told He gave gifts to His Church. We are told this in **Ephesians 4: 8-12**, "8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

Notice what those gifts were:

Two of those gifts were Apostles and Prophets. They were the revealers of truth and what they revealed was the foundation on which the Church was built as Paul shows in the same book. **Ephesians 2:20-22**, "20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."



It must be obvious to any thinking person that Jesus is the cornerstone of His Church. Cornerstones then were the first stones laid and set the direction of the building. What Jesus, the Apostles, and Prophets revealed was a foundation on which the Church was built. They gave the faith and it was once and for all delivered to the saints. **Jude 1:3**, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

On the other hand, the other gifts He gave are Evangelists and Pastor-teachers. These gifts are the teachers of that which the Apostles & Prophets revealed.

Evangelists and Elders have a mutual ministry. They work together.

The Ephesians passage informs us of their joint work together in the Church.

"12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the

whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." **Ephesians 4:12-16**

The Apostles and Prophets were temporary gifts for revealing the truths of the Gospel, while the Evangelists and Pastor-teachers are permanent gifts to the Church.

Let us carefully list what Evangelist and Pastor-teachers mutually do in the congregation:

- They mature the Saints to do the work of the ministry and edify or build up the Body of Christ, which is the Church.
- The Evangelists and Pastor-teachers continue the work of the Apostles and Prophets by working together for the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God and to bring the Saints to maturity to be Christ-like.
- They are to help the Church mature so that they will not be children who are tossed about by every wind of doctrine, caused by the sleight of men and the craftiness of deceivers who lie in wait to deceive the Church.

- They do this by speaking the truth in love by maturing the Saints in Christ, who is the Head of the Church.
- They work to get the Saints to work together with their various gifts and make the Church increase and edify itself in love.

We want in this study to look specifically at the work of the Evangelist. To this we look at two other Scriptures that mentions the Evangelist besides the above passage in **Ephesians 4:11**.

One is found in **Acts 21:8** where we find that Phillip, one of the original seven men who was called to serve tables in **Acts 6**, had become an Evangelist. This may help us understand **1 Timothy 3:13**, "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

When the Church was scattered by persecution, Phillip (one of the seven in **Acts 6**) ended up with a great reaping of souls in Samaria. However, he was called from that great evangelistic success in Samaria to preach to the Ethiopian Eunuch who was returning from worship in Jerusalem. He preached unto him of Jesus and the man was immersed. God then translated Philip to Azotus and he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea. He stayed there and had his own home and family.

Later Paul abode or remained in Philip's house for many days. This was 20 to 25 years after he had served tables in Jerusalem. So we see an Evangelist is not, as often assumed, a man who necessarily moves from one church to another but can settle down with his family in one place.

**Acts 21:8**, "And the next *day* we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was *one* of the seven; and abode with him." Notice that he is Philip **THE** Evangelist. It is a specific work.

The other mention of Evangelist is in **2 Timothy 4:5**, "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

From these three passages it must be obvious to any unprejudiced mind that Evangelists have a clear-cut work. The word has the idea of a "one who brings good news". However it is not limited to that.

Here is the basis of my proposition. Timothy and Titus were not "Pastors". Regardless of the additional uninspired notes in our Bible following the books of Timothy and Titus, they were not Pastors.

They do not fit the qualification laid out for those qualified for that good work. Remember there are three Greek words and six English words for the work of Elders.

The names "Elders" and "Presbyters" are the same Greek words. It is *presbuteros*. They are older. The Presbytery is an assembly of old men. **This shows their age.**

The names "pastors" and "shepherds" are the same Greek word. It is *poimen*. They are feeders and shepherds of the flock. **This shows their work.**

The names "bishops" and "overseers" are the same Greek word. It is *episkopos*. **This shows their authority** of overseeing by visitation and maintaining the flock's spiritual welfare.

These three Greek words are used interchangeably and are never used of the Evangelist.

Now, it is obvious that Timothy and Titus were men that Paul considered his sons in the faith. The responsibilities he lays and the admonishments he gives them show them to be young men. This is especially seen in **1 Timothy 4:12**, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Again **2 Timothy 2:22**, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Obviously they were not Elders.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITY OF THE CHURCH IS TO REALIZE THAT THE THREE BOOKS WRITTEN TO TIMOTHY AND TITUS ARE NOT PASTORAL EPISTLES, BUT EVANGELISTS EPISTLES. THEY TELL WHAT AN EVANGELIST IS TO DO IN THE LOCAL CHURCH.**

**1 Timothy 3:15**, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

To **Titus 1:5**, "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee."

Evangelists were ordained by Elders and were approved by the churches. **2 Timothy 1:6** shows that Timothy received the miraculous gifts by the apostle Paul's hand but his ordination was from the hands of the presbytery, or Eldership. **1 Timothy 4:14**, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

A unique word is used for this because it was done simultaneously. According to Arndt and Gingrich, the word "with" is in the genitive case, "among in company with someone, denoting the company within which something takes place". So it is plain that Paul gave him the miraculous gifts and the Elders set him apart to the

office of Evangelist. In the Scriptures, Evangelists ordain Elders, and likewise, the Elders ordain Evangelists. They are thus accountable to each other and share a mutual ministry in the local Church.

So when you read Timothy and Titus, do not forget you're reading the job description of an Evangelist, not a Pastor. It tells the Evangelist what to preach and teach and be in the local Church. He is to do so with all authority. **Titus 2:15**

In light of this let's ask a question...Is the work of the Evangelist needed today?

The answer must be obvious to those who think about it. A little satire may help us see the ludicrous position of those who believe there is no necessity for the Evangelist today.

**The work is not needed today because:** (Satire)

The entire world has already heard the Gospel so a "good news bearer" is no longer needed.

Everyone has already believed the Gospel.

No new churches need to be planted, as there is enough.

Those churches that do exist do not need set in order **Titus 1:5**

No Elders need to be ordained today. **Titus 1:5** and **1 Timothy 5:22**

No one is needed for Christians to bring their accusations against an Elder. **1 Timothy 5:19-20**

There are no false teachers whose mouths must be stopped. **Titus 1:11**

All Christians have already come to the unity of the Faith, in **Ephesians 4**.

Men can hear without a preacher so there is no need for any to be sent. **Romans 10:14-15**

There is no need of someone being guided to understand the Scriptures, like Phillip the Evangelist did for the Eunuch. **Acts 8:35**

It no longer pleases God by the foolishness of preaching the Gospel to save those that are lost. **1 Corinthians 1:21**

There is no need for men to be edified or comforted today. **1 Thessalonians 3:2**

There is no need for laborers to enter in to fields that are white to harvest. **Luke 10:2**

No one needs to be taught not to teach any other doctrine such as fables and endless genealogies, which gender questions. No one does that anymore like they did in the first century. **1 Timothy 1:3-4**

No one needs to be taught about praying for government leaders. **1 Timothy 2:1-3** and **Titus 3:1-2**

Women do not need to be told to dress modestly, since today all women are modest. **1 Timothy 2:9**

No one needs to see to it that women do not teach men or have authority over men. **1 Timothy 2:11-12**

No one needs to stress that qualified men be placed in the Eldership. **1 Timothy 3**

No one needs to put the brethren in remembrance of false teachers who teach the doctrines of men. **1 Timothy 4:7,11**

No examples are needed for believers. **1 Timothy 4:12**, **Titus 2:7-8**

No one needs to see to it that only qualified widows are supported. **1 Timothy 5:3,16**

No one needs to see to it that Elders are paid if they labor in the Word. **1 Timothy 5:17**

No one needs to stress that employers treat employees fair and that employees be good workers. **1 Timothy 6:1-2** and **Titus 2:9-10**

No one needs to warn men about the dangers of trying to get rich and falling into many foolish lusts. **1 Timothy 6:9**

No one needs to warn those already rich that they not trust in uncertain riches, but to share with others. **1 Timothy 6:17-18**

No one needs to commit the Word to faithful men who will teach others also. **2 Timothy 2:2**

No one needs to charge people to not strive about words that are unprofitable and that subverts hearers. **2 Timothy 2:14**

No one needs to instruct those who oppose themselves so they can recover from snares of the devil. **2 Timothy 2:25-26**

The traits of backsliders and apostates are not needed to be brought to the attention of believers anymore. **2 Timothy 3:1-7**

No one needs to reprove, rebuke, and exhort with longsuffering and sound doctrine. **2 Timothy 4:2**

No one in this day and age has itching ears and heaps to themselves teachers. **2 Timothy 4:3**

No one needs to remind the Church of apostolic precedent. **I Corinthians 4:17**

There are no heretics anymore. **Titus 3:10-11**

So it is very clear that no one needs to do the work of an Evangelist today. **2 Timothy 4:4-5.**

It should be remembered that Paul called the Elders (*presbuteros*) of the Church at Ephesus to meet him at Miletus. **Acts 20:17**

They came and he said to them, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers (*episkopos* or Bishops), to feed (*poimaino*) the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." **Acts 20:28**

Listen to what he warned these Elders, Bishops, or Pastors of Ephesus in 57 AD: **Acts 20:29-30**, "29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 **Also of your own selves** shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

In 65 AD Paul had the Evangelist Timothy to remain in Ephesus to correct that Church. In 66 AD he sent Tychicus to Ephesus since Timothy was leaving. **II Timothy 4:12**, "And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus."

In **Titus 1:5** he left Titus in Crete to set the churches in order. He did so but he would send Artimus or Tychicus to replace him so Titus could come to be with him in Nicopolis.

Obviously a Church without an Evangelist is not the Church in the Bible. It is so sad that preachers today have taken the name "Pastors" for though the work of an Evangelist is complimentary to that of a Pastor, their work differs exceedingly. He cannot obey the commands of what to preach and do if they are not in the local Church.

I guess we can be thankful they chose to call themselves "Pastors" imitating denominational preachers. They could have started calling themselves "Bishops" since Biblically speaking Pastors and Bishops are the same work.

In reality they have as much authority to be called Bishops as Pastors.

Perhaps this article will help you understand why Summit Theological Seminary is training men to be Evangelists or Preachers.

We want to avoid the typical one-man Pastor system. It is unbiblical and shows disdain to restoring God's vocabulary and polity in the New Testament.