

CHANGING EVANGELISTS AND THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

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INTRODUCTION

1. The work of an evangelist is a very important work in the church of our Lord.
2. Paul told Timothy, "*Do the work of an evangelist*" – 2 Tim. 4:5.
3. The Evangelist "*Does the work of the Lord*" – I Cor. 16: 10.
4. Brethren are not to despise men who do this great work – I Cor. 16:11.
5. The work of an Evangelist is a GIFT of Christ to the church – Eph. 4: 8, 11.
6. The work of an Evangelist is done in the local church where there are elders – Timothy worked with the church at Ephesus and they had elders – I Tim. 1:3; Acts 20:28.
7. If there are no elders, the Evangelist is to work to see that men develop into elders – Tit. 1: 5.
8. The changing of an Evangelist is a critical time for all concerned in a congregation.

I. IT IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR THE EVANGELIST LEAVING

- a. He is naturally nostalgic about the work of the church he has *devoted a sizable part of his life to*.
- b. He has watched out night and day for God's Heritage at the place he has labored – Acts 20:31; 2 Tim. 4:5; I Pet. 5:3.
- c. He has had GENUINE interest in the welfare of the church – Phil. 2: 21.
- d. The church is DEAR to him. – I Thess. 2:8; I Pet. 2:17.
- e. He is CONCERNED for the FUTURE of the work – Acts 15: 36.
- f. Pulling up ROOTS is hard for him, his wife, and children.
- g. There are many UNKNOWNs in the NEW work he is going to – He will find them out when he gets on the ground and the "honeymoon" is over.

II. IT IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR THE CONGREGATION

- a. Some have become so close to the present preacher and his wife and family that they are determined NOT to ever "get close to another preacher and his family".
- b. They think nobody will ever suit them as well.
- c. The next man who comes to labor in the gospel will be compared to the standard of the man who moved away.
- d. CONGREGATIONS need to realize that *every man is different*; personalities and backgrounds are different.
- e. His wife will be different and his children will be different.
- f. The way he delivers his lessons will be different.
- g. Christians ought to have HEARTS that can *expand to receive and accept* others who labor in the gospel, even as our hearts expand to receive and love additional children in our families.

III. IT IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR THE ELDERS

- a. They wonder, "Have we decided on the right man for this work?"

- b. "Are there some things about him we did not find out?"
- c. "How well will he work with us when he gets on the ground?"
- d. "Will the congregation accept him and work with him?"
- e. Will he deal with the problems as they arise in the congregation?
- f. Will he become involved with some of the members until he forms a clique in the congregation?
- g. Will he be self-centered and unreasonable?

IV. IT IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR THE NEW PREACHER

- a. Will the congregation be ready to accept him, and will they try to work with him from the beginning?
- b. What kind of relationship will he have with the eldership?
- c. What kind of deep problems is he going to find in the congregation that have been hidden?
- d. Will this congregation take good, sound preaching?
- e. Does this congregation have a good attitude toward preachers?
- f. Will this congregation treat me and my family as "second-class citizens", who can be disposed of if I offend the wrong people?

V. ALL PARTIES CONCERNED MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT THE WORK OF THE EVANGELIST IS ALL ABOUT.

- a. It is about the SALVATION of the EVANGELIST, and the SALVATION of those that hear him— I Tim. 4:16; I Cor. 1:21; Mk. 16: 15 – 16.
- b. The salvation of souls and the church must be PUT FIRST! – Matt. 6:33.
- c. In the changing of Preachers, the church must always strive for UNITY – I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4: 1– 3; Psa. 133:1.
- d. The New Evangelist must be RECEIVED AND TREATED WELL when he comes to do the work of the Lord – I Cor. 16: 10 – 11.
- e. The Evangelist who is leaving is to be *loved and respected for his work* in the Kingdom – Acts 20: 36 – 37.
- f. All have worked together in the Kingdom of Christ that we might go to heaven when we die.

VI. CONCLUSION

- a. Let us all continue to work hard in the Kingdom of Christ.
- b. I Pray that you will work and cooperate with the New Evangelist.