

The Work Of Evangelism

Introduction. God planned the church from eternity to manifest His wisdom (Ephesians 3:8-11). The Lord promised to “build” His church (Matthew 16:18), and this primarily means planting, establishing, extending or bringing others into the kingdom of God through the preaching of the gospel. The word therefore designates the work of evangelizing the world with the gospel of Christ. We are going to examine the church to see if the scriptures allow the work to be done by a human institution.

I. ***God’s Plan Is To Save The World Through Preaching The Gospel***

- A. All mankind is in need of salvation (Romans 3:9-10, 23).
- B. The gospel of Christ is God’s power to save (Romans 1:16; James 1:21; Acts 20:32).
- C. Preaching the gospel as a means to save the lost was planned from eternity (Romans 16:25-26; Titus 1:2-3; 2 Timothy 1:9-11).

II. ***The Local Church Is God’s Agency Through Which To Do This Work***

- A. The church is to be taught to observe the commandments of Christ by the apostles (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).
- B. The church must contend for the faith or the truth (Jude 3).
- C. The kingdom is the sowing agency (Matthew 13:3-9).
- D. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:14-15).
 1. The church at Thessalonica was an example to other churches in evangelism (1 Thessalonians 1:3-8).
 2. The church in Philippi was a wonderful example in this work (Philippians 1:3-5; 2:25-30; 4:14-20; 2 Corinthians 11:8-9). In all of these instances they sent to Paul directly, not through a human organization or another church.
- E. Since God has given a specific order or arrangement for this purpose, when men form another they add to God’s word and way.
 1. The congregation is to hold forth the word of life (Philippians 2:12-15).
 2. The congregation has fellowship with the evangelist in preaching (Philippians 1:5).
 3. Fruits abound to the account of the congregation of saints (Philippians 4:17).
 4. Any substitute order for such work arranged by the wisdom and will of man is not an expedient; it is a rejection of God’s ways!

III. ***No Church Did Its Work Through A Human Organization Or Another Church***

- A. Antioch made up its own contribution and by its own messengers sent directly to the elders of the churches in need in Judea (Acts 11:27-30).
- B. Corinth made up its own fund by the contribution of her members, selected her own messenger, and sent it directly to Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 16:1-3).
- C. The churches of Macedonia made up their funds, chose their own messengers, and sent directly to Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:2, 19-23).
- D. These same churches of Macedonia sent directly to Paul by the brethren chosen by them (2 Corinthians 11:8-9).
- E. Philippi was one of the Macedonian churches, yet it acted independently in contributing to Paul through her own messenger, Epaphroditus (Philippians 4:14-18).

IV. ***Congregational Activity In Evangelism Also Included Individual Activity***

- A. There are numerous examples of individual teaching (Acts 5:42; 18:24-26; 20:20).
- B. Evangelists went out of their own accord (Acts 8:5).
- C. Men of Cyprus and Cyrene went to teach (Acts 11:19-20; 2 Corinthians 8:16-17).

V. ***Every Congregation Did The Same Kind Of Work In The Same Way***

- A. Paul taught the same way in every church (1 Corinthians 4:16-17).
- B. Paul ordained the same in all churches (1 Corinthians 7:17).
- C. Paul gave orders in all churches (1 Corinthians 16:1).

Conclusion. Since God has given by divine wisdom an organization to the local congregation, and has made it sufficient to accomplish His purpose, it is the only medium of work and worship through which the Christian can accomplish the purpose of evangelizing the world. We must be satisfied with His will, His way and His word and not seek to alter it.