

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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The Primitive Evangelist

Jesus said, “if you love me, feed my lambs and feed my sheep.”

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting (maturing) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of The Son of God, unto a perfect (mature) man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

It appears that the title “Evangelist” among the Old Baptist draws a critical response. The word “Evangelist” is used twice in the scriptures and the word “Evangelists” is used once in the new Testament. The word is translated from the Greek root word yoo-ang-ghel-id’-zo; to declare, bring good, glad tidings, preach. The word modified from the root word is yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace; a preacher of the gospel as used in Ephesians.

Historically, I do not know of the Primitive Baptist recognizing the spiritual “gift” of an individual as an Evangelist. The office of Elder has been the determining title for those that demonstrate the gift(s) of the ministry, whether they are in a Pastoral position or not.

The apostle Paul’s admonition to young Timothy was to “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they shall not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lust shall they heap unto themselves teachers having itching ears” (II Tim.4:2-3).

Paul continues to instruct the young Timothy to “Do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (II Tim.4:5).

I am persuaded that there are those among the Old Baptists who are not pastoring a church assembly and are visiting among Zion’s heritage from meeting to meeting and

are being used to “do the work of an evangelist;” preaching the glorious gospel of Christ savoured with the Almighty character and sovereign attributes of the God of the scriptures. Those gifted with the burning desire to preach the truth as it is in Jesus and feed God’s sheep with the revealed deep things of the word of God.

I have seen the fences, walls and association barriers barricade some of God’s gift(s) from entering into a meeting house stand because they didn’t line up with certain traditional rules, order and decorum among the faction. These traditions of men have hindered the gospel ministry as God has determined to let men have their way even if the Church assembly was to suffer at the traditional orders of the Elder / Pastor.

I personally have been used in two Old Baptist assemblies within the past year as a brother of sound doctrine as the deacon(s) and elder agreed and then weeks later be told that my occupying THEIR STAND was causing a problem because of man’s traditions, order, and decorum. What amazed me in the matter was, I went to the meeting to be blessed in the gospel by those blessed to preach, and I would be recognized and called upon to speak. I am God’s EVANGELIST, not a muzzled oxen by man’s practice’s. When I am invited into a Church house stand, GOD DID IT, even though I was blessed to set forth the truth as I have been revealed it and it was received with the love of the brethren at the time, twice, Pastors apologized weeks later for using me because my “baptism” was not in proper order?

Oh, how sad to have Peter, James, John, Paul, Timothy, Phillip, and a multitude of other New Testament preacher/evangelist visit most of our Old Baptist Churches and have to remain silent because they do not meet the order, practice, and decorum of the Church or association. Would Christ turn away a brother that would come his way with a heart to proclaim the glorious gospel? As much a threat Saul of Tarsus was to the Church of Christ, God opened the doors that he would preach the unsearchable riches of Christ at every occasion. Yet, we have so many that reject brethren that are not in their faction, clan or association around the country. Is this making way for God’s gifts to be heard among the assemblies or a body of a clergy of elders trying to protect their little kingdoms?

Isolationism is nothing to glory in dear friend. Where is Christ-like love demonstrated? We Old Baptists have allowed the missionary neo-evangelical freewill liberals to rob us of “DOING THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST.” May we be blessed to preach the gospel of Christ free and sovereign grace at EVERY occasion, in every season, from the basements to the rooftops and proclaim that “OUR GOD REIGNETH.”

If any Christian faction has what I would call the “FULL GOSPEL,” it is the Old School Baptist proclaiming the historical doctrines of God sovereign, free grace and UNLIMITED predestination of all things that come to pass.....Yet, to use the term “Full Gospel” among PB would cause eyebrows to be raised....We have allowed the Charismatic, Pentecostal entertainment religionist to rob us of such term as Full Gospel.

So it is with the new Baptist, mechanical missionary, neo-evangelical influence, as it has caused most to run from the word “Evangelist” that God had recorded would be a “gift” to the new Testament Church to enhance the “perfecting of the saints” (Eph. 4:11).

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