

## Evangelism

Evangelism is defined as teaching what is pertaining to or according to the Gospel, sound in doctrine and doing so in a fervent devout way. It's a great enthusiasm, fervor, or zeal for a particular cause, this being the cause of Christ. This is a work that the individual no doubt has a responsibility to carry out. **Matt 28:19** Christ told His disciples **Go ye into all the World teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.** Christ knowing that this was a Gospel that needed to be taught worldwide commissioned the apostles to take this saving message into the entire world. In the book of Acts we see this work being carried out just as Christ had authorized. In **Acts Chapter 2** we see the Apostle Peter preach the truth of the Gospel, upon hearing this Gospel message in **verse 38** it pricked those listeners to the heart prompting them to ask **“men and brethren what must we do to be saved?”** Peter says, **“repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of the Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins.”** As we move down to **verse 41** scripture says **“they that gladly received his word and were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”** **Verse 42** they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers and in **verse 47** we see that it was **the Lord who added to the church daily such as should be saved.** Again in Acts the **3rd chapter** we once again notice Peter proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and despite many of the rulers of the Jews being offended by Peter's sermon **Verse 4 of Chapter 4** says **4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.** In **Acts 7** we see Stephen deliver the truth of The Gospel which led to him being stoned. In **Acts 10** Peter again teaches the Gospel, this time taking it to the house of the Gentile Cornelius and we can continue to see various examples of this throughout Gods Word. In addition to the individual work we see we can also notice the evangelistic work being completed by local Churches of Christ. Notice **Acts the 11th chapter** beginning in **verse 19** and take note of the Church at Antioch. **Verses 19-26** **19 traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word** (we notice that it was not man made philosophies, it was not as Peter says in **2nd Peter 1:16** cunningly devised fables) but **verse 20** says **they were 20 preaching the Lord Jesus.** (This preaching or proclamation of the truth resulted in the fact) **that a 21 a great number believed and turned to the Lord.** (God's Word was accomplishing exactly what it was intended to) **upon hearing verse 22 news of these things came to the ears of the church The local Body of Christ in Jerusalem, they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.** From this **23 He encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.** Again the result of God's Word being proclaimed was a great many people were added to the Lord. Here we have an approved apostolic example giving us the Biblical Authority to evangelize or preach as a local Body of Christ. The Apostolic part of this is vital because if we will remember among other places in **Matthew 28** we see there, Christ delegated this authority to his apostles and here we see this Apostolic example in play. Notice **verse 26** **So it was that for a whole year they assembled** or they gathered **together in one place,** they came together with this local Body of Christ in Antioch **and taught,** they gave lessons, imparted knowledge, advocated the Gospel Plan Salvation, and God's Will for His people. This teaching was done **to a great many people.** And what were these members of the Body of Christ called? **The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.** Evangelism is most assuredly a responsibility of the individual Christian and a responsibility of the local Church.

*Jay Dixon*