

EVANGELISM IS A WORK OF THE CHURCH.

2/15/2026 AM

INTRO.:

A. Read text: 1 Thess. 1:2-8.

B. Regarding the text:

1. The Great Commission (**Matt. 28:18-20**). The words of our Risen Savior.
 - 1) The church is required to work.
 - 2) Only three works are authorized (benevolence, edification & evangelism).
2. **Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:2.**

I. EVANGELISM DEFINED.

A. Evangelism = To proclaim the good news.

B. What good news? The Gospel “which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).

C. Read 1 Thess. 1:5-8.

1. What did they do after learning and obeying the gospel?
 - 1) **Verse 8.**
 - 2) A wonderful commendation for the church at Thessalonica.
2. I wonder what the message would be to us today.

II. OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

A. Our marching orders are - Benevolence, Edification and Evangelism.

1. Each one is important and necessary. However, without evangelism all else is of little value.
2. If we take care of the needy and edify one another yet neglect the saving of souls, what have we accomplished?

B. 1 Tim. 3:14-15.

1. The idea is that the church is the pillar, the supporter of the truth.
2. The church is the only institution that can or will teach the soul saving message.
3. Not denominationalism.
 - 1) In fact, denominationalism opposes the message that we must teach.
 - 2) The church is to proclaim God’s plan of salvation!

C. Eph. 3:8-10.

III. THE CHURCH HAS MUCH WORK TO DO!

A. Please note: Mark 16:15-16.

1. “Go” is a verb in the imperative. (It does not merely state a fact. It demands action.)
2. Please note, we are not commanded to baptize. We are commanded to teach.
 - 1) The hearer decides either to accept or reject the saving message.
 - 2) Our orders are to **go and teach (1 Cor. 1:17)**.

B. Let us ask...WHY must the church be evangelistic?

1. We are commanded to do so!
 - 1) As we have noted in the Great Commission. (**Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49.**)
 - 2) Paul commanded Timothy to preach the saving word. (**2 Tim. 4:1-4**)
 - 3) Paul was charged to preach the gospel. (**Acts 16:10**).
2. The souls of men are at stake.
 - 1) **1 John 5:19** “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.”
 - 2) **Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:8, 10.**
3. To help the lost see the light. **John 12:46** “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”
4. The gospel is to be taught so that men might be free of sin.
 - 1) **Col. 1:12-14.**

- 2) The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (**Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:22**).
- 3) This is the ONLY message that can produce salvation.

IV. THE CHURCH DOES HER WORK THROUGH MEN.

A. There is no substitute.

1. Read **2 Cor. 4:3-7**.
2. God's plan requires that the GOSPEL be taught!
3. Sometimes evangelism is a little hard.
 - 1) **Acts 8:4** "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."
 - 2) Family, friends, etc.

B. The church has a real and pressing need today! Some never consider what being lost really means.

C. What if we the members will not do this work?

1. Souls will be lost.
2. Congregations will cease to exist.

REMEMBERING

Toney L. Smith

The old church building's paint is cracked and worn.
 The roof sags and looks tired and forlorn.
 The happy songs are gone from the place.
 And smiling faces have left without a trace.
 The building was once busy and filled,
 And the people were glad to assemble to do as God willed.
 Why then the sad picture we now see?
 Could it be because of me?
 Did I find new things to do?
 Did I leave the old paths to follow the new?
 Did I work to keep the place happy and bright?
 Or did I just vanish from her sight?
 It would not have gone this way I sigh,
 If I had loved the church and held it high!
 The house of God will not slide,
 If we His people keep Him by our side.
 To make sure our doors are not closed up tight,
 I must love her with all my might.
 I must remember our Lord's commission each day,
 Is to teach the gospel, sing and pray.
 Doors will be closed when my duty is not done.
 And closed they will stay when souls are not won!

V. CONCLUSION:

A. How are we doing in evangelism? You and me?

B. Helping others go to heaven should be a priority!