

“The Pilgrims Progress”
The Work Of An Evangelist

Introduction:

1. In The Apostle Paul’s Second Letter:
 - To A Pastor Named Timothy:
 - He Encouraged Him To:
 - 2 Timothy 4:5 - “Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry!”
 - So - Among Other Things:
 - Timothy Was Told To:
 - “Do The Work Of An Evangelist!”
 - Now - When You Think Of That Word & That Work:
 - It Might Bring Up Different Images & Ideas To Your Mind!
2. Perhaps “The Work Of An Evangelist” Brings To Mind:
 - The Extended Meetings:
 - That Took Place In Large Tabernacles Or Tents:
 - In Years Gone By:
 - When A Preacher, Called An “Evangelist” Would Preach Messages:
 - To Vast Crowds In Order To Get Them To Respond To His Message:
 - By Walking The Sawdust Trail!
 - Or - Perhaps - “The Work Of An Evangelist” Brings To Mind:
 - Meetings That Take Place:
 - At A Church - Where A Guest Preacher:
 - Will Come To Encourage & Equip The Members Of That Church:
 - To Be More Effective Witnesses For Christ!
 - Or- Perhaps - “The Work Of An Evangelist” Means To You:
 - The Same Thing As:
 - A Revival Meeting!
 - 3. Well - When Paul Told Timothy:
 - To Do “The Work Of An Evangelist”:
 - He Did Not Have ***Any*** Of These Things In Mind!
 - Instead - The “Work Of An Evangelist” Was:
 - Simply Put:
 - Evangelism!
 - And - What Is Evangelism?
 - Our English Word Is Carried Over From:
 - A Greek Word - Not As A Translation:
 - But As A Transliteration:
 - Which Meant To Bring The Good Message / News Of Jesus Christ:
 - To Others!
 - Whether That Was:
 - In A Church - Or:
 - In A Synagogue!
 - Whether That Was:
 - Under A Tent - Or:
 - In The Open Air!
 - Whether That Was:
 - To A Vast Multitude - Or:
 - One-On-One - To Your Neighbor Or Coworker!
 - 4. The “Work Of An Evangelist” Is Just:
 - Telling People About The Evangel:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - As John Gill Once Described It:
 - “To Preach Peace, Pardon, Righteousness, Life, And Salvation Alone By Jesus Christ, And Through The Free Grace Of God!”
 - But - What Timothy Was To Do:
 - In His Service As A Pastor:

- We Are All Supposed To Do:
 - In Our Lives As Christians!
- Isn't This What Jesus Himself Says:
 - In Acts 1:8?
 - "And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth!"
- 5. So - The "Work Of An Evangelist" Is Really Meant:
 - To Be The Normal Work:
 - Of Every Christian!
 - And Though It May Take Different Forms:
 - It Really Has Just One Goal:
 - To Tell People About Jesus!
 - Well - As We Return To:
 - Our Journey Through The Pilgrims Progress Tonight:
 - We Are Going To See Two Out Of The Three:
 - Primary Ways:
 - To Do The "Work Of An Evangelist!"
 - The First Way:
 - Is The Way We Think Of Most!
 - It Is When You Witness:
 - To The Lost!
 - This Is What Happened To:
 - Both Christian & Faithful:
 - And Which Caused Them:
 - To Begin Their Journeys In The First Place!
 - However - A Second Way:
 - Is What We Will Find:
 - Faithful & Christian Doing:
 - In Their Ongoing Conversation:
 - With That Man Named Talkative:
 - Who We Met Last Week!
 - And That Way Is:
 - Through Warning:
 - Those Who Think They Are:
 - Right With God!
 - But - There Is A Third Way As Well!
 - And When Christian & Faithful's Old Friend:
 - "Evangelist" Comes To Meet Them:
 - For The Last Time In Our Story:
 - He Continues To "Evangelize" Those Brothers:
 - By Watching Out For Them & Urging Them:
 - To Stay Close To Christ!
- 6. So - Turn Back In Your Copy:
 - Of The Pilgrim's Progress:
 - To *Page 49, Paragraph 4*:
 - Where - After Faithful Consults With Christian About Talkative - We Are Told:
 - *"Then Faithful stepped forward again, and said to Talkative, Come, what cheer? How is it now?"*
 - Now - Before We Continue Reading:
 - I Want To Say Once Again That:
 - The Author Of Our Story - John Bunyan:
 - Was Not Only A Man:
 - Of His Times! But:
 - He Also Used The Language & Vocabulary:
 - Of His Times!
 - And - Some Times - That Language:
 - Can Be Startling - And Even:
 - Offensive!

- Well - We Will Come To A Couple Of Those Words Tonight:
 - That Don't Mean Today:
 - Exactly What They Meant Then!
- So - For Those Two Words:
 - I Will Use An Appropriate Replacement:
 - That Maintains The Sense Of Bunyan's Original Vocabulary!
 - "Slut" - "Rude"
 - "Whore" - "Prostitute"
- Read Through *Page 54, Paragraph 1:*
 - "*And Commit The Keeping Of Your Souls To Your God In Well-Doing, As Unto A Faithful Creator!*"
- 7. So - Even Though:
 - Witnessing To The Lost:
 - Is A Primary Way To Do:
 - "The Work Of An Evangelist!"
 - What We Find:
 - Faithful & Christian & Evangelist Doing:
 - Is No Less:
 - The Same Work!
 - Because True Evangelism:
 - Includes:
 - Witnessing And Warning And Watching:
 - So That Whoever Hears About Jesus:
 - Will Keep Their Faith & Trust In Him!
 - So - Tonight:
 - I Want Us To Focus On:
 - Those Other Two Works:
 - Of An Evangelist!

* First:

1. *The Evangelist's Work Of Warning!*

- This Is What Faithful & Christian:
 - Were Involved With:
 - When It Came to Their Conversation With:
 - Talkative!
- Now - Even Though:
 - It Seems Like - At First Glance:
 - That Both Faithful & Christian:
 - Were Really Wanting To Get Rid Of:
 - The Company Of Talkative!
 - Yet - The Primary Purpose:
 - Of Their Conversation:
 - Was To Expose Talkative:
 - For Who He Really Was:
 - In Order To Evangelize Him!
 - We Saw This In Our Reading Last Week:
 - When Christian Said To Faithful:
 - "Take my advice, and do as I bid you, and you shall find that he will soon be sick of your company too, except God shall touch his heart, and turn it!"
 - The Goal Of Bunyan:
 - In This Part Of The Story:
 - Is To Show Us The Importance Of:
 - Purity In The Fellowship Of The Church!
 - We Must Not Tolerate:
 - Unbelievers In Our Midst:
 - And Treat Them As Brothers:
 - When They're Not!
 - And So - There Are Times:
 - When We Must Evangelize:

- Those Who Think They Know The Gospel:
 - But - Only Know Jesus:
 - “In Word” - But Not “In Deed And In Truth!”
- And So - In The Continuing Conversation:
 - Between Faithful & Talkative:
 - Faithful Points Out:
 - “How The Saving Grace Of God Discovers Itself When It Is In The Heart Of Man!”
 - In Other Words:
 - What Are The Proofs
 - Of Your Pardon:
 - From Christ?
 - Faithful Offers Four Proofs!
- The Proof Of Your Hatred!
 - A Hatred & A Revulsion For Sin!
 - It Is Not Enough:
 - To Express Outrage & Cry Out Against Sin!
 - There Must Be Real Hatred:
 - Of All Sin!
 - A Hatred For:
 - Others’ Sins!
 - Like David - Psalm 101:3:
 - “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me!”
 - But - Even More:
 - A Hatred For:
 - Your Own Sins!
 - Like Job - Job 42:5:
 - “I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. / Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes!”
 - To Warn People:
 - About Sin - Even Professing Believers:
 - Is Still The “Work Of An Evangelist!”
 - Because - If You Only:
 - Denounce Sin - Without Disowning Your Sin:
 - You May Yet Be Without Christ!
 - Another Proof Of Your Pardon Is:
 - The Proof Of Your Habits!
 - This Was The Problem With Talkative!
 - His Walk Did Not Match His Talk!
 - And So - Information:
 - Without Application:
 - Is Nothing More Than:
 - Theory!
 - But - Listen To David’s Prayer:
 - In Psalm 119:33-34:
 - “Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. / Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart!”
 - And So - As We Heard From Faithful:
 - Information:
 - Is Enough:
 - For The Talker!
 - But - The Christian:
 - Will Not Be Content:
 - Without Both!
 - And - To Warn People:
 - About The Need For Transformation:
 - Is Still The “Work Of An Evangelist!”

- Because - If Its Just All Talk & Theory:
 - What Is The Reality?
- Another Proof Of Your Pardon Is:
- The Proof Of Your Heart!
 - In 2 Corinthians 7:9-10:
 - Paul Writes - “Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. / For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death!”
 - True Repentance For Sin:
 - Is Proof Of Your Pardon!
 - And True Repentance Includes:
 - A Heart-Felt Sensitivity To Your Sin!
 - A Heart-Felt Sorrow For Your Sin!
 - A Heart-Felt Shame For Your Sin! And:
 - A Heart-Felt Submission To The Savior!
 - And - All Of This Will Reveal Itself:
 - In The Way Faithful Tells Us:
 - “Now, According To The Strength Or Weakness Of His Faith In His Savior, So Is His Joy And Peace, So Is His Love To Holiness, So Are His Desires To Know Him More, And Also To Serve Him In This World!”
 - And So - To Warn People:
 - About The Condition Of Their Heart - And:
 - Their Need Of Repentance:
 - Is Still The “Work Of An Evangelist!”
 - Even To Those Who Think They’re Safe!
- There Are Other Proofs:
 - That Faithful Offers To Talkative:
 - But - He Concludes With This One Probing Question:
 - That Caused Talkative To Go On His Way!
 - And That Evangelistic Question Was This - “Do You Experience” This Saving Grace In Your Heart?
 - Is It Evident In:
 - Your Hatred!
 - Your Habits!
 - Your Heart!
- Warning Professing Believers:
 - In These Ways:
 - Is Still “The Work Of An Evangelist!”
 - But Then - From The Second Part Of Our Story That We Read Tonight:
 - We Can See:

2. ***The Evangelist’s Work Of Watching!***

- Watching Out For The Souls:
 - Of The Saved - Like:
 - A Shepherd Watches Over:
 - The Flock!
 - This Is What Evangelist Does:
 - Once Again:
 - When He Meets Up With Christian & Faithful:
 - For The Third & Last Time:
 - In Our Story!
 - He Is Like A Spiritual Father To Them Both!
 - Even As Paul Told The Thessalonian Church:
 - In 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 - “Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: / As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, / That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory!”

- Evangelism Includes Encouragement:
 - For Christians!
 - In Proverbs 25:25 - We Are Told:
 - “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country!”
 - One Often Over-Looked Part Of This Story:
 - Is What Bunyan Tells Us:
 - Right After Talkative Took His Leave:
 - From Faithful & Christian!
 - He Writes:
 - “For Now They Went Through A Wilderness!”
 - That Conversation:
 - Took A Heavy Toll On Them!
 - Bunyan Knew Too Well:
 - The Discouragement Of:
 - Witnessing & Warning People:
 - Through The Gospel:
 - Only For Them To Ignore Him & Persist In Unbelief!
 - We Know This Discouragement As Well:
 - In Our Own Witnessing & Warning:
 - To Friends & Family Members:
 - Even After Many Years!
 - But - What Is The Best Encouragement:
 - For This Kind Of Discouragement?
 - The Gospel! The Good News Of Christ!
 - Which Is The Best “News” From The Farthest “Country!”
 - Christians Need To Hear The Gospel Too!
 - And So - Using The Gospel:
 - Evangelist Encouraged Those Discouraged Brethren:
 - So They Would “Hold Out” And “Run, That [They] Might Obtain!”
 - But - We Also See That:
- Evangelism Includes Exhortation:
 - For Christians!
 - I Like How He Urged Them On:
 - When He Said - “You Are Not Yet Out Of The Gun-Shot Of The Devil! You Have Not Resisted Unto Blood, Striving Against Sin! Let The Kingdom Be Always Before You, And Believe Steadfastly Concerning Things That Are Invisible! Let Nothing That Is On This Side The Other World Get within You! And, Above All, Look Well To Your Own Hearts!”
 - The Only Way For Us:
 - To Follow This Good Advice:
 - Is Through The Gospel - And:
 - In Connection With Jesus Christ!
 - But Then - We Also See That:
- Evangelism Includes Enablement:
 - For Christians!
 - Especially When You Continue To Face:
 - The Truth & Trials:
 - Of Life!
 - Evangelist Turns Prophetic:
 - About What Christian & Faithful Will Face:
 - In The Next Town They Come To:
 - Vanity Fair - Which We Will Learn More About Next Week!
 - But - Evangelist Knew:
 - That The Only Way Either Of Them:
 - Would Be Able To Make It:
 - Is Through The Gospel!
 - Because - Only Those Who Are “Faithful Unto Death” - As We Are Told In Revelation 2:10:

- Will Be Given The “Crown Of Life!”

- And - Only The Gospel:
 - Has The Power To Sustain You:
 - Until You Meet Your End!

Conclusion:

1. So - Remember This Tonight!
 - Watching Over The Souls:
 - Of Your Christian Family - And:
 - Warning Others:
 - Who May Still Be In Spiritual Danger:
 - Is Just As Much The “Work Of An Evangelist” As:
 - Witnessing To The Lost!
2. Because - The Gospel:
 - Has The Power - Not Only:
 - To Save You - But Also:
 - To Sanctify - And:
 - To Sustain You:
 - As A Child Of God!
3. So - Do “The Work Of An Evangelist” Yourself!
 - Who Can You Witness To:
 - This Week:
 - About The Lord?
 - Who Can You Warn - Like Faithful:
 - By Asking Them About:
 - Their Relationship With The Lord? Or:
 - Who Can You Watch After - Like Evangelist:
 - By Encouraging Them:
 - And Reminding Them:
 - About The Gospel & The “Mercies Of God!” (Romans 12:1)

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