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T H E   C O N T E N D E R

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)  
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"AND HE GAVE SOME...EVANGELISTS..." (Eph. 4:11)

Here are some questions commonly asked about the evangelist and his work. Would you know the answers?

1. What are other terms for this man?--Preacher (Rom. 10:14) Minister (I Cor. 3:5) Evangelist (Acts 21:8)
2. How can I tell they refer to the same man?--I Tim. 2:7, I Cor. 4:1 II Tim. 4:5
3. In what areas must a preacher be an example?--"..but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (I Tim. 4:12)
4. Isn't 1 qualification that he be able to speak well?-- Definitely Not! Paul said, "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom...That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (I Cor. 2:4,5) See also II Cor. 11:6
5. Why don't gospel preachers take the title "Reverend"?--This term refers to God and is not applied to man. (Ps. 111:9) Job said, "Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away." (Job 32:21,22)
6. Why don't preachers wear robes?--Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces." (Mk. 12:38, Matt. 23:5)
7. Is the preacher a member of the congregation?--A preacher is a member of only one congregation and therefore can attend only one business meeting. (Col. 1:7, 4:12, Acts 9:26)
8. Can we call him "Father"?--No! This term is for God (Eph. 4:6), the apostles (I Cor. 4:15, I Tim. 1:2) and one's physical father (Heb. 12:9). Jesus said, "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 23:9)
9. Is there a "clergy" and "laity" in the N.T.?--No. "..all ye are brethren" and the greatest "among you shall be your servant" (Matt. 23:8-11)
10. What is the "Work of the Evangelist"?--Preaching (II Tim. 4:2) Study (II Tim. 2:15) Personal Work (Acts 20:20) Debate (Acts 17:17) Appointing Elders (Tit. 1:5)
11. May a preacher labor under elders?--Yes as Paul did and told Timothy to. (Acts 20:17-31, I Tim. 1:3)
12. May a preacher locate at one congregation?--Certainly. Paul was at Ephesus for 3 years, (Acts 20:31) and at Corinth for 18 months (Acts 18:11). Consider the time period from Acts 8:40-21:8.
13. Can a congregation regularly pay a preacher?--In I Cor. 9:7-14 the Bible teaches a congregation to pay a preacher. The "vinyard" of v. 7 equals the church and he is to eat the fruit thereof. Likewise the "flock" is also the church and the preacher is to eat the "milk of the flock". Paul said in v. 11, 12: "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we reap your carnal things? If others be partakers of this power..."

14. What is the money paid to preachers called?--Some seem to be under the impression that this is charity or welfare but God said it is "wages" (II Cor. 11:8)
15. Please explain I Cor. 9:9: "Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn." When a farmer uses an ox to grind his grain he will muzzle him so he will not be able to eat as he works. The Bible simply teaches that if a congregation has money and withholds it from the preacher they are in sin.
16. What other Scriptures teach this?-- Matt, 10:9, 10; Deut. 12:19, Lk. 10:4-7; I Cor. 9:13-14
17. If the congregation cannot support him?--If the local church cannot support him the preacher must receive his wages directly from another church or churches (Phil. 4:15-18, II Cor. 9:11) or individual Christians are to help him (Gal. 6:6). Note this money goes direct to the preacher from the church or individual Christian without a missionary society or a sponsoring church standing between the giver and receiver.
18. In his travels how is he supported?--When a gospel preacher must go from one congregation to another the Bible says he is to be "brought on their way by the church". (Acts 15:3) Many times preachers are summoned at their own expence or given a little amount that soothes the calling church's conscience.
19. What about women preachers?--The Scriptures do not teach by example command or necessary inference that a woman is to preach the gospel. They are therefore sinful. Even the realm of women's teaching is limited (I Cor. 14:34,35; I Tim. 2:11f Rev. 2:20; Acts 18:26, Tit. 2:3,4).

20. What about seminaries?--Such as this and Bible Colleges are not in the N.T. They exist simply because the congregation has not developed a teaching program good enough to secure its own future.

The church is and can:

- Edify Itself--Eph. 4:16
- Spread Gospel--I Thess. 1:8
- Send Out Preacher--Acts 13:1-4
- Receive Report--Acts 14:27
- Aid In Travel--Acts 15:3
- Send Direct Support--Phil. 4:15
- God's Wisdom Known--Eph. 3:10
- God Receives Glory--Eph. 3:21
- Pillar Of Truth--I Tim. 3:15
- Ground Of Truth--I Tim. 3:15

Then for it to establish a Bible College, School, Seminary, or a Missionary Society to do all or a part God has given to the church to do is sinful!

- A Preacher Must: Not preach himself (II Cor. 4:5)
- Use simple language (I Cor. 1:17)
- Speak boldly & please God not man (Eph. 6:19,20, Gal. 1:10) Preach the whold concil re peating if needed (Acts 20:27, II Pet. 1:12)

**NEWS & NOTES:** We are thankful that bro. Lemon Moore came our way and preached the morning service! He did a fine job and we're looking forward to his coming again! We also thank bro. Gary Vaughn for the splindid and timely lesson he brought to us in the evening. The Lord's blessed us with record attendance of 84 and it is our firm desire and prayer that you visitors leave that position and become active members of this congregation!

Brother & sister Elkins are still not well as well as bro. Lloyd Madden who is recovering from surgery.

We are sorry to report that Bro. & Sister Moore from Vanceburg have left this congregation. We wish them well and hope that we might be reunited one day.

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- \* ORDER OF SERVICES \*
- \* Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship \*
  - \* 7:30 p.m. Worship \*
  - \* Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Bible Study\*
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and "endure afflictions" II Tim. 4:5