

Qualifications For Evangelists

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Introduction: Much has taught on qualifications of elders and deacons and deservedly so. There are similar qualifications for evangelists and they are found in our text.

I. Contextual Comments.

- A. Written to Timothy who is believed to have been in Ephesus. Date is approx. 62 A. D. from Paul in Rome. (Traditional view). The general tenor of the letter is instructions for Timothy in his labor in the Lord.
- B. In giving these instructions to Timothy Paul uses the phrase “*I charge you.*” This indicates a delegation of trust, to testify through someone else. Hence, Paul is commanding much like a military officer (*see 2 Tim. 2:2-4*). This is not just a good idea, it is what is expected.
- C. The qualifications are basically itemized in v. 5.

II. Qualifications Examined.

- A. “*Be watchful in all things.*”
 - 1. Idea of preparation, readiness.
 - a. Watchmen were placed so as to give early warning (*Isa. 62:6*).
 - b. Most catastrophic diseases are best treated when detected early.
 - 2. Must be informed because of subtlety of opposition (*2 Cor. 11:3*).
 - a. Will require being on top of things from without as well as within.
 - b. Much error is disguised with a thin coating of truth.
- B. “*Endure afflictions.*”
 - 1. Hardships will come.
 - a. Teaching the truth often brings repercussions, schemings, charges, etc. (*Phil. 1:12-18*).
 - b. The result of standing for the truth must be endured (*Matt. 10:22*).
 - c. Emphasis is on staying power.
- C. “*Do the work of an evangelist.*”
 - 1. A labor to engage in (*see v. 2a*).
 - a. “*Preach the word*” (*1 Thess. 2:13*).
 - b. “*Be instant,*” readiness.
 - c. “*Convince*” (*Reprove, KJV*),” convict others (*Titus 1:9*).
 - d. “*Rebuke,*” to deliver a sentence (as in condemnation) (*1 Cor. 5:6a*).
 - e. “*Exhort,*” pleading (*Phil. 4:2*).
 - 2. Reasons for this are given (*see 4:3-4*).
- D. “*Fulfill your ministry.*”
 - 1. Not braggadocious, but that what has been done will speak for itself.
 - 2. Though Apollos was an eloquent man (*Acts 18:24*), his reputation was even more eloquent (*Acts 18:27-28*).
 - 3. A reputation, good or bad, speaks for itself. Reputations that are given are always earned.

III. Man-made Qualifications.

- A.** A social gadabout.
- B.** He is to be THE one to visit the sick.
- C.** He is to be a pit bull for the brethren.
- D.** He is to be sinless.
- E.** He is a hireling.

Conclusion: Let us approach this in a serious way. It is not a hobby, it is a work with clearly defined qualifications and parameters. Let those who engage in such a work burn *1 Timothy 4:16* in their minds.