

# “I KNOW YOUR WORKS” EVANGELISM

## INTRODUCTION

- A. **Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23-27**  
The church is worth our consideration in view of its value to the Lord.
- B. **Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 2:9**  
The church is the fullness of Christ, who is, Himself, the fullness of God. Therefore, the importance of the church must not be minimized.
- C. **Revelation 2:1-2, 8-9, 12-13, 18-19; 3:1-2, 7-8, 14-15**  
To each of the seven churches of Asia, Jesus said, *“I know your works.”* Churches, not only the members within them, have works to undertake. Whether the works a given church is doing honor the Lord or displease Him is a subject that deserves serious contemplation.
- D. Over the course of the next few weeks, we intend to examine those works the church is authorized in Scripture to engage in and then contrast those permitted functions against illegitimate activity.
- E. The first work to be recognized is that of evangelism, the work of preaching the gospel to lost souls.

## I. EVANGELISM IS THE PRIMARY WORK OF THE CHURCH

- A. **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:14-15**  
The church is the foundation of the truth, which is God’s word (**John 17:17**). Therefore, the chief business of the church is God’s word.
- B. **Ephesians 3:10-11**  
God’s eternal purpose is for the church to broadcast His great wisdom.

## II. THE CHURCH IS THE AGENCY WHEREBY PREACHERS ARE SENT

- A. **Acts 13:1-5**

The local church is the agency that sends men to preach to the lost.

**B. **Philippians 4:15; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:8****

Churches are authorized to spend money in this endeavor.

**C. **Acts 14:26-27****

Churches can expect preachers to report about their work.

**III. THE LOCAL CHURCH HAS A UNIVERSAL SCOPE IN EVANGELISM**

**A. **Mark 16:15****

Jesus expects the gospel to be preached to everyone.

**B. **Colossians 1:5-6, 23****

Such a goal can be realistically accomplished very quickly as it was in the first century.

**C. **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:8****

Local churches make it happen. Each congregation should spread the word locally, in neighboring regions, and worldwide. The universal church does not need to be “activated” as some are wont to say. The local church just needs to get busy and stay busy.

**IV. THE CHURCH HAS EXCLUSIVE ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN EVANGELISM**

**A. **Acts 8:4-5****

Christians may preach on an individual basis without doing so through any church.

**B. **Acts 18:26****

Families can certainly undertake the effort to share the gospel

**C. **Matthew 15:13****

However, besides the church, no organization or institution may arise to carry out the work of evangelism and meet the Lord’s approval in doing so.

Knowing that all competitors will be uprooted by God, we must learn contentment with the divine plan. Such satisfaction eliminates the need for

other organizations to make it their work, thus excluding missionary societies, colleges or universities, camps or retreats, and other private foundations, institutions, and organizations.

## CONCLUSION

**A. Revelation 1:12-20**

Little of Revelation's imagery is directly explained in the book, but, early on, the lampstands are identified as the churches.

**B. Revelation 2:5**

Churches that displease the Lord, that refuse to return to "*do the first works*," will lose the lampstands whereby they are recognized as His. They need to repent to retain their identity as Christ's churches.

**C.** So, before any other business, we must ensure the church is primarily occupied with disseminating the gospel, Christ's power to save!