

A devotion given by Robert Ching at the prayer meeting on October 22, 2025

The Marks of an Evangelist 傳道者的特色

In Acts chapter 18, Apostle Paul demonstrates two important marks of an evangelist. First, he shares the gospel at ALL time. Second, he shares the gospel to ALL people.

“And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.” Verses 3-5 lay out his home life, his work life and his church life.

Paul lives with Aquila, a Jew from Pontus and wife Priscilla who exile from Rome as refugees in Corinth. This couple offers a family life to Paul and is known to open their home for church gathering wherever they go, as evidenced in Romans 16:5 when Paul specifically greets the church that is in their house. We can safely say that Paul continues his evangelistic effort after work to the home gathering into the late hour.

His work life in making tents used by “shepherds and travelers, is a trade that is lightly esteemed and poorly paid.” Paul would have ample opportunities in sharing the gospel as customers wait for their tents to be mended or made. So, the trade is his vocation, evangelism is his calling, and the store is his venue to share the gospel of Christ.

His church life is to reason in the synagogue every sabbath. Most people would be too tired to attend church after six days of hard labor and ministries. Some may skip Sunday worship to make extra income. Others would be satisfied just in home worship. But Paul remembers the Sabbath day despite a busy week. He knows the Law and keeps the Law.

Some people feel faith is a private matter, best insulated from the public. Others believe faith is off limit in the workplace. But Paul integrates his faith in all occasions. In Acts 18:15, Gallio refuses to rule in the matter brought up by the Jews because it pertains to “questions about words and names and your own law.” Today, we delight ourselves in dissecting “words, names and law”. This is a safe zone that we are comfortable in, away from the assault of this world. But Romans 10:14 asks “How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher” Despite our head knowledge, we are

incapable to explain to the marketplace the hope that is in us. Today, many are bible scholars, few are evangelists. Paul's academic and religious credentials are extensive. He could be dean of a seminary and a professor of the OT. He could win any argument on "words, names and laws." But he does not neglect his primary focus which is to "persuade Jews and Greeks". "Persuade" is to bring people to Christ.

The second mark is to share the gospel to ALL people. In Galatians 1:15, God calls Paul to preach Christ among the Gentiles. That is his evangelistic focus, not his audience exclusiveness. It is noteworthy that while Peter ^{Galatians 2:7} had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised, God told him to share the gospel with Cornelius and "he is considered the first non-Jew convert to Christianity¹". When the Jews oppose him in Acts 18:6, Paul says that "From now on I will go to the Gentiles." Paul does not stop persuading the Jews at that point. When ^{18:8} Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household, it is likely that Paul converts Crispus because he is living next door to the synagogue. When God tells Paul to keep on speaking, ^{18:10} "for I have many in this city who are my people" and ^{18:6} "many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized." These people would include Jews too.

In our mission trip to Greece in September, I met brother Stavros, a Greek man in his 50s. He had a miserable childhood growing up in a little village outside of Thessaloniki. He was a drug addict at an early age, and while contemplating suicide, God in His grace, saved him through the ministry of Pastor George of Larisa. After his conversion, he brought his parents and younger brother to Christ. He is very clear in his calling as an evangelist. On a cold Saturday night, we held a gospel table in the center square. As the crowd dwindled, amazingly Stavros kept a group of teenage girls attentive for a long time. He is still finishing high school and he is many years older than this group. Yet God has given him the passion and ability to cross the age and culture divide.

Then Stavros attended a gathering of Chinese immigrants on golden visa. He gives his salvation testimony and his plan to restart the drug addict



¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=synlfgLf1oA&t=25s>

center. He is willing to speak to an unknown group for he knows that God have many in Athens who are my people²”

May we balance our zeal for biblical knowledge with the passion to do the work of an evangelist as Paul charges his spiritual son in 2 Timothy 4:5.

² Acts 18:10 God have many in this city who are my people.