Evangelism Part 1

"13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:13-15)

In the above Scripture it is very clearly demonstrated to us that people will believe in the good news of Lord and got saved through hearing the message. They nead to hear the good news and the word of God from someone to be saved. Therefore it is necessarily that we need to continually preach the word of God.

We as Church of God we honour the command of Jesus in *Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.*" Therefore we commissioned all our trained workers to go forward with the message and the command of Jesus to go and make disciples by preaching to them the Gospel and teaching them the word of God, "19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the *Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (*Matthew 28:19-20*)

"32 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33) The Lord would expect from us to acknowledge him before men and proclaim His word and will to them. And it will not be easy. And you will find opposition and people who will not accept the message but the Lord would expect from you to continue to proclaim the message, "34 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household." (Matthew 10:34-36)

The Lord commissioned the prophet Jeremiah to preach and teach His word to the Israelites, "9 Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (Jeremiah 1:9-10)

Jeremiah was admonished to stand firm in spite of all the pressures that were surrounded him: "17 Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. 18 Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land-against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 1:17-19) Truly Jeremiah was sent to stubborn people who were also misled by many false prophets who taught the people rebellion and did not admonish them to follow God the same as the message of the Lord through Jeremiah. The word of God spoke about those false prophets the following: "25 I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' 26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? 27 They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship." (Jeremiah 23:25-27) "28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. 29 "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:28-29)

The time that God had called Jeremiah to serve Him and proclaim His word, there were many other false prophets and false teachers who were preaching messages that did not come from the Lord. Those prophets were misleading the people and condoning with them their sins and their wrong doings. Jeremiah was surrounding by such dreamers who were teaching the people things that contradict the message that God had given to Jeremiah. Sure Jeremiah was discouraged because of those preachers who were opposing the message of God and who were leading the people through their teaching to move away from God. But the Lord encouraged Jeremiah with His word that he does not need to be discouraged; the Lord directed Jeremiah also of what he needs to do:

1- Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream: Let them speak lies and tell the people wrong things. You cannot close the mouth of those false teachers and those who compromise, and you do not need to condone with the people their sins. But you can do the following:

2- But let the one who has my word speak it faithfully: God instructed Jeremiah to continue to speak forth the word of God that He was receiving from the Lord. You can face the false prophets and teachers, by continually preaching to the people the word of God and teach them the sound teaching.

3- For what has straw to do with grain? The false teaching is like a straw and it has no value in compare to the grain (the word of God).

4- Is not my word like fire,'' declares the LORD: The word of God that you are preaching is like the fire that will consume the false teaching (the straw).

5- And like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?: Whatever is the foundation of false teaching, the word of God shall break it as hammer break a rock in pieces.

It is a very clear way for you to continue to serve God, and to be well maintained even you are in the mid of bad company of false teachers. You do not need to grieve or feel pain because of the false teaching, and you do not need to approve them. But faithfully continue to proclaim the word of God to the people and to the field of Evangelism whom the Lord entrusted to your care.

The good news is that Jesus died on the cross for the sin of mankind. And you need to mention and speak about sin in detail so that people would have the opportunity to repent. "46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:46-47) The message of Jesus, the early church and the apostle were preaching the message of repentance as we can read in the following Scriptures:

1- The message of Jesus: "14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:14-15)

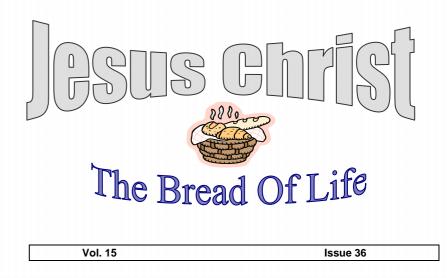
2- The message of the Apostles of the church: "37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:37-38)

3- The message of Apostle Paul: "30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31)

"10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10) The devil is the thief who came to kill steal and destroy. The Lord Jesus Christ came to save mankind from the hands of devil. The footholds that the devil uses in peoples' lives are their sins. Therefore as a church we need to embrace the message of Jesus by living it and by proclaiming it to the people who are around us. Therefore what we ought to proclaim in our endeavor to Evangelize is the message of repentance so the people will be aware of their sins and their eyes would be opened and got repent and have the opportunity to believe in Christ and got saved.

My Dear and Beloved: Paul said to the Ephesians and requested to pray for him "19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." (Ephesians 6:19-20) Ahead of us as a Church of God a great responsibility to bring forward the message to the people that God had sent us and whom he had prepared for us. There is no way to compromise; we need to proclaim it in the way it should be and without fear. Therefore be prepared, the Lord is sending you, to go forward and bring the message as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to go and serve you and do the work that you had prepared in advance for me to do. Lord lead me to people and prepare their hearts to receive your message. Lord protects me and provides for me and let it be a harvest as you ordained. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.



"31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." 32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' 33 In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! 34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

(Luke 13:31-35)

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