

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	25
Sunday AM Worship	50
Sunday PM Worship	26
Wed. Bible Study	22
Offering	\$1851

You Are Cordially Invited to Our 13th Annual
Old-Fashioned Gospel Tent Meeting

With Guest Speaker:

David Irick

August 14-20, 2022

West Jefferson Church of Christ

Monday-Saturday: 7:00 pm

at Greenfield Campground, Mt. Jefferson Rd, West Jefferson, NC

Sunday: 10:00am, 11:00am & 1:30 pm

At Our Building, 130 Robert Street; West Jefferson, NC

NOTE: No Collection Will Be Taken Monday-Friday!

For More Information: (336) 846-5615 or wjchurchofchrist.org



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Minister:

Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

WHAT KIND OF PREACHER WAS PHILIP?

Roger D. Campbell

There was one follower of the Christ named Philip who was an apostle (Luke 6:12,13). There was a different disciple by that same name that was not an apostle (Acts 8:1,4,5). The Holy Spirit describes him (the non-apostle) as "Philip the evangelist" (Acts 21:8). While Philip the apostle is indirectly mentioned numerous times in the Book of Acts when the Bible records the activities of the apostles, God's word actually gives us more specific information about Philip the evangelist. What kind of preacher was this man Philip?

(1) Philip was a preacher who had a good reputation in the church. Is it possible for someone to be held in high esteem even though his heart is not right in the sight of God? (Acts 8:21). It is. Yes, people can be deceived into praising a renegade. Philip, however, was no renegade that pulled the wool over the eyes of the unsuspecting. When the apostles decided that seven men were needed to serve neglected widows, the instruction was given for the disciples to choose "*men of honest report [good reputation, NKJV], full of the Holy Ghost, and wisdom*" (Acts 6:3). The selection of the seven,

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including Philip, was based on their character. No preacher of the gospel can be effective unless he sets forth “*a pattern of good works*” (Titus 2:7). He may be a splendid orator, but unless he has a well-deserved reputation as a man of godly character, he will be a dead weight to the local church and its efforts to evangelize its area.

(2) Philip preached the right message. In Samaria, he preached the Christ (Acts 8:4). Since the Samaritans received his preaching, and the Bible says they received “the word of God” (Acts 8:14), then it is plain that (1) Philip did not preach his own ideas, but rather God’s word, and (2) to “preach the Christ” is the same thing as to “preach the word.” That is the Holy Spirit’s charge to everyone that wants to be a true evangelist: “*Preach the word*” (2 Timothy 4:2). I have heard first-hand accounts of people attending a congregation and over a five-year period of time never hearing a lesson on marriage and divorce or the evils of immodest clothing and man-made religions. Some preachers are reported to have the speaking skill to hold an audience in the palm of their hand. If so, they are blessed with a powerful ability. But, what good is that if they will not preach the whole counsel of God?! (Acts 20:27). Philip preached the right message.

(3) Philip preached the right message even when “the big boys” were not around. Because of an intense persecution, except for the apostles, all the disciples were forced to leave Jerusalem (Acts 8:1). Philip was one of the scattered ones that went preaching the word (Acts 8:4,5). When he first went to preach in Samaria, there were no apostles there. He was not preaching the truth in order to please or impress them. He was preaching the truth because that is what true preachers do, regardless of which “big name” preachers might be present or absent. There is way too much preaching for show that goes on in the church today. It smells.

(4) Philip was willing to go teach one person. Philip’s preaching in Samaria had resulted in conversions, including Simon the former sorcerer (Acts 8:12,13). Surely it would have been pleasant to stay there and keep it going, but the Lord had other plans. He sent this word to Philip: “*Arise, and go toward the south . . .*” The next verse says, “*And he arose and went . . .*” (Acts 8:27). Philip was willing to go to a desert place to teach one precious soul. God’s preachers need to be able to step out of the pulpit and into people’s living rooms (or chariots, as in the case of the eunuch, Acts 8:29-31). No, it is not “the preacher’s job” to conduct every private Bible study, but if you run across a preacher that is not comfortable being in close contact with people and is not interested in teaching one-on-one, he is not akin to the evangelists of the first century. He certainly does not resemble Philip. Or Paul. Or Timothy. Or Jesus.

(5) Philip literally ran to his next preaching assignment. He may not have done so on other occasions, but the Bible says that he “ran” to where the eunuch was (Acts 8:30). Don’t you love the excitement he had because of the chance to teach the lost?! We need evangelists that are on fire to preach the word! We need gospel preachers that live in order to preach rather than preach in order to live.

Was Philip perfect? No way. But he did demonstrate some qualities that all Christians, especially gospel preachers, need to emulate. May God give us more evangelists like His servant Philip.

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"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:3-12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 14-20 – Old-Fashioned Tent Meeting @ Greenfield Campground w/ David Irick
- Aug 20 – Preach & Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Aug 27 – Prayer Service
- Sept 3 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell