

OUR JOB AT OZARK BIBLE COLLEGE...AS I SEE IT
-by Paul T. Butler, Dean of Admissions

In order to be dead-center regarding our purpose we need to ask honestly and forth-rightly, "What are we trying to produce?" The answer comes from the Bible itself around which our entire curriculum revolves.

In the Apostle Paul's first and second letters to Timothy we find an inspired and an eloquent expression of what the evangelist's job must produce. Our end product must be a specially equipped evangelist:

1. Whose aim is love issuing from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. I Tim.1:5
2. Who will be committed to waging the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. 1:18
3. Who will urge supplications and prayers for political leaders in order that the Gospel may be preached. 2:1ff
4. Who will know how brethren ought to behave in the church of God and be able to lead in selecting elders and deacons. 3:1ff
5. Who will be able to instruct the brethren about deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. 4:1-5
6. Who will have nothing to do with silly myths. I Tim. 4:7
7. Who will train himself in godliness. 4:7
8. Who will so command and teach that no one will be offended at his youthfulness. 4:11,12
9. Who will set an example in speech, conduct, love, and purity. 4:12.

10. Who will attend to public reading of Scripture, to preaching, to teaching. I Tim. 4:13
11. Who will practice the above duties, who will devote himself to them, so that all may see his progress. 4:13
12. Who will be able to treat properly younger and older men and women, instructing them. 5:1ff
13. Who will know how to properly make public rebuke of persistent sinners. This he is charged to do in the presence of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels. 5:20 Who will not be partial. 5:21
14. Who will not participate in wrong doing. I Timothy 5:22
15. Who will take care of his physical condition. I Timothy 4:8; 5:23
16. Who will teach and urge proper human relationships with the world. 6:1,2
17. Who will shun materialism. 6:3-10
18. Who will aim for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness. 6:11ff
19. Who will avoid godless chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge. 6:20,21
20. Who will charge the rich in this world to do good deeds with their riches. 6:17ff
21. Who will kindle a spirit of power and love and self-control in himself. II Timothy 1:7
22. Who will not be ashamed of testifying of Christ. II Timothy 1:8
23. Who will take his share of suffering for Christ. II Timothy 1:8
24. Who will follow the pattern of apostolic sound words. 1:13

25. Who will guard the truth. II Timothy 1:14

26. Who will be strong in grace. 2:1

27. Who will commit the Gospel to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also. 2:2

28. Who will shun encumbrances not relative to service for Christ. 2:3ff

29. Who will be able to charge others not to dispute about words. 2:24ff

30. Who will be able to handle aright the Word of Truth. 2:15

31. Who will purify himself as a vessel for the Lord. II Timothy 2:21

32. Who will shun youthful passions. 2:22

In order to accomplish this task of producing a specially equipped evangelist, we must work with a variety of individuals. In the twelve apostles our Lord equipped we find represented the types of individuals who live today:

*Peter--impetuous, loud, over-confident, rough and ready to fight.

*Simon the Zealot--political right-winger.

*Matthew--social outcast.

*Thomas--melancholy, dubious.

*James & John--ambitious, reactionary, sectarian.

*Philip--inquisitive but dense.

*Judas Iscariot--complainer, criticizer, thief, traitor.

*Paul--Pharisaic, intellectual, cultured, zealous.

*Nathanael--guileless, naive, impressionistic.

All the apostles had some of the following characteristics:

provincialism
materialism
ambition
pride

spiritual dullness
sectarianism
impetuosity

However, we must always keep in view what the Word and presence of Christ made of them. (with one exception). They became the most capable and effective evangelists the world has ever known. As we expose ourselves to the Word of Christ in the classroom and the presence of Christ in the lives of our teachers and the atmosphere of our homes may we produce an army of 20th. century evangelists to infiltrate our world with the transforming power of the Gospel.

-by Paul Butler, adapted by Danny Camp