

the truth. For the purpose of aiding in bringing the brethren to unity, we are not only willing to write the fullest statement upon every point but we are also desirous to publish everything they may wish to say, having the least bearing upon any question in reference to which there is any real or apparent disagreement. In union there is strength, and if our forces in the South-west, particularly, cannot act in concert, our efforts must remain feeble, and of course the cause of Christ can but suffer. Will the brethren, and especially our preaching brethren, deal frankly with us? We have no selfish purposes to accomplish, but most devoutly desire the prosperity of Zion. With these prefatory thoughts we submit our teaching, fervently desiring all to read with care, and compare every conclusion with the sacred oracles.

1. THE TERM EVANGELIST.

The word *Evangelist* signifies a gospel preacher. There are two classes of Evangelists described in the New Testament—extraordinary and ordinary. An extraordinary Evangelist was an inspired man, as Peter, Paul, John, &c. They were not to study or premeditate either the matter or manner of their discourses. They were ministers to whom the Lord promised to be “mouth and wisdom,” and who, in the language of Paul, “brought forth glad tidings of good things.” These were the ambassadors of Christ, and earthen vessels in which dwelt all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom designed for the redemption of man. Through these agents the Lord Jesus gave the will of the Father, perfected the Christian ministry, revealed “all things that *pertain to life and godliness*,” and the vision closed, miraculous displays ceased the “testimony was bound up,” and consequently, since the death of the beloved John, no additions, changes, or emendations have been made to the law of the Spirit, and as there has been no occasion for an extraordinary Evangelist, no inspired man has been found, and no one can exist whilst the Lord sustains the truth of the Christian religion. Were another messenger to descend from heaven, or were another gospel preached, we could no longer respect Jesus of Nazareth or his appointments. Hence the utter and hopeless infidelity of all who are seeking for new lights, and are professing progressive developments in the science of religion.

Ordinary Evangelists were “faithful men,” to whom the Apostles committed the revelations with which they alone were favored, and were to “study” the word of life to enable them to teach the lost. From the close of the first century to the present, all that men have