



# **Evangelical: Formed by the Word**

**2 Timothy 3.10-4.5**

**Snr Ps Beh Soo Yeong**

# What is Evangelicalism?

<sup>2</sup> Tim 3.<sup>10</sup> You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup> In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

# What is Evangelicalism?

2 Tim 3.<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



# The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word

Movement in modern Christianity. From the Greek word *euangelion*. i.e. Good news or gospel. Believes and proclaims the gospel.

- Emphasis on conformity to the basic tenets of the faith
- Emphasis on the belief and faithful proclamation of the gospel
- Emphasis on the centrality of Scripture as a faithful repository of the gospel – life, death, resurrection, return of Christ for our salvation.

# **The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word**

## **How did Evangelicalism come about?**

- Apostles and through the ages
- John Chrysostom (347-406 CE), Augustine of Hippo (354-430CE)
- Church councils e.g. Nicea (325CE), Constantinople (381CE), Chalcedon (451CE) – Christology

# **The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word**

## **How did Evangelicalism come about?**

- Reformation (16<sup>th</sup> century)
- Martin Luther, Zwingli, Calvin
- Protestant Missionary Movement (18-19<sup>th</sup> C)
- George Whitefield (1714-1740) etc
- Billy Graham, JI Packer, John Stott

# The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word

## Strengths:

1. Emphasis on sound Doctrine – orthodoxy (right belief)
2. Commitment to biblical fidelity – sola Scriptura (Scripture alone) – authority of Scripture for faith and life
3. Call for genuine conversion & proclamation– sola gratia (grace alone); sola fide (faith alone); sola Christus (Christ alone).
4. Stress on discipleship – missionary mandate from Christ to make disciples of all nations



# The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word

## Potential Pitfalls:

1. Tendency to be fixated on non-essentials (especially ‘minor’ issues), and sectarian mentality (trigger-happy to create schisms)
2. Tendency to ignore the whole person and the whole community in salvation (only about being individually converted)
3. Tendency to be activististic
4. Risk of bibliolatry (worshipping Bible rather than God)



# **The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word**

## **Overcoming Potential Pitfalls:**

1. Major on the major! Neglect not the unity of the Body of Christ.
2. Learn from the other traditions – being still, prioritising love, walking in the Spirit, saving the whole person and community.
3. Focus on our call and mandate.

# The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word

## Practices: 2 Tim 4.1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

**Pass on  
the faith**

# The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word

2 Tim 4.3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

**Pass on  
the faith**

# The Evangelical Tradition: Formed by the Word

Matthew 28.<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**Disciple  
the nations**



## Wrap up: Take home lessons?

1. No need to choose exclusively. Church through time and space. Blurring of traditions.
2. Learn from others, esp. about self e.g. stillness, delight, emotions (not emotionalism), being Spirit-led, etc.
3. Appreciate who we are. Go deeper!
4. Humble boldness.

**Wrap up: Take home lessons?**

**Eyes on Christ!**

**Eyes on the prize!**