

## *Note to the Reader*

I am convinced that the way a growing number of evangelical churches try to evangelise is mistaken. Their sincerity is not in question; it is what they are aiming for, and the way they go about it, that I challenge. Although I have written and spoken extensively about this, I return to it yet again because its consequences are exceedingly serious. I fear not only for those who pass through this new process, but for the church itself: both will have to pay a very heavy price for today's mistakes. Consequently, I am doing what I can to prevent it.

Contrary to how it might seem by what I say in this book, I do not limit evangelism to attendance at meetings 'in church' to hear a set-piece sermon delivered from a pulpit.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, I strongly disagree with any suggestion which limits preaching to 'preaching from a pulpit'.<sup>2</sup> Every believer is a preacher, and every believer is personally responsible for evangelism by private witness and conversation.<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless, since it is such an important matter, much of what follows is concerned with what is normally known as 'preaching'.

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<sup>1</sup> See my *Gadfly*.

<sup>2</sup> See my *Sowed*.

<sup>3</sup> See my *The Priesthood*.