

CHAPTER 4

## How Much Does It Cost the American Church to Preach the Gospel?

One of the Lord's last and most critical commands was for us to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This is not an option. If we are true Christians, we will obey His commands, including this one.

Christian leaders insist that the primary way we do this is by giving money to the church. This is so consistently hammered into our minds that we now believe preaching the gospel and giving to the church are the same. Yet they are totally different actions that often have little or no connection to one another.

Nonetheless, our leaders regularly press upon us the extreme urgency of giving to the church so the gospel can be preached. The implication is that if we don't give, the gospel will not be preached. But is this true? Is the preaching of the gospel limited to church bank accounts? If this is true, the church's history should numerically reflect the greatest evangelism and growth in times and places where the church was or is financially prosperous. But is this so?