

The Apostles

I Corinthians 4:9ff

Acts 26:21-23



Who are the Apostles?

The Apostles			
Matthew 10:2-4	Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:14-16	Acts 1:13; 22:1ff
Peter Andrew James John Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew James, son of Alphaeus Thaddeus Simon the Cananaen Judas Iscariot	Peter James and John, the sons of Zebedee Andrew Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew James, son of Alphaeus Thaddeus Simon the Cananaen Judas Iscariot	Peter Andrew James John Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew James, son of Alphaeus Simon the Zealot Judas, son of James Judas Iscariot	Peter Andrew James Philip Thomas Bartholomew Mattew James, son of Alphaeus Simon Zelotes Judas, brother of James Judas Iscarot Matthias Paul

The Apostles

- Hand picked by the Lord to serve as ministers of the gospel (Lk. 6:12; Gal. 1:1).
- Men who spoke the commandments of God (I Cor. 14:37).
- Men who were actual witnesses of the resurrected Jesus (Acts 1:22).
- There are no modern day apostles!

What are the Apostles?

- Apostle = “a messenger, ambassador, envoy” (LS 107).

Messengers

- One who brings a message from another (Jn. 16:13-15; Gal. 1:11-12).
- The message = Gospel (I Cor. 15:1-8).

Ambassadors

- One who represents another (II Cor. 5:20).

Envoy

- Envoy represents the mission (purpose) of the messenger.
- Great commission (Matt. 28:18-20).
- A message that has the power to save man's eternal soul from everlasting punishment (Rom. 1:13-16; II Thess. 1:8).

The Effects of the Apostles' Preaching

- Church was established (Acts 2).
- Men received the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 4:1-4).
- Sometimes the messengers were “mocked” (Acts 17:30-32), rejected (Acts 18:5-6), shamefully treated (I Thess. 2:2), and even physically abused (II Cor. 11:22ff).
- Jesus told them that it would be so (Jn. 15:18ff).

The Manner of the Apostles' Preaching

- They preached without fear or favor of men as God commanded the prophet Ezekiel (Ezek. 2:6-7; II Tim. 1:7; 4:1-5).
- The apostles exposed men's sin (Eph. 5:11).
- The apostles' preaching promoted repentance (II Cor. 7:8ff).
- Treated the disciples as children of their own (I Cor. 4:14-15). At times, the message was gentle (I Thess. 2:7-12). At other times, correction was needed (I Cor. 4:21).
- Through all their preaching toils, the truth was preached in love (Eph. 4:15).

The Apostles are Our Examples

- The determining factor of what a man's character is will be WHAT distinguishes him from others when he reacts to situations.
- Let us look to Jesus and the apostles (I Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:9).

Conclusion

- What governs your character?
- Are we gladly spent for others (II Cor. 12:15)?
- Are we willing to suffer for the cause of Christ considering it our “light affliction” in comparison to heaven (II Cor. 4:16ff)?
- Is our preaching patterned after NT preaching? (i.e., times of gentleness and times of correction)?
- Are we following the examples that Jesus gave us?