

# APOSTLE/APOSTLES

## Jesus: The Ultimate Apostle

### Jesus – the apostle we confess

Hebrews 3:1

1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

## God Calls People To Be Apostles; We Don't Call Ourselves

### The 12 designated apostles by Jesus

Luke 6:13

13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

Mark 3:14

14 He appointed twelve-designating them apostles-that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach

### Paul was called to be an apostle of Jesus

Romans 1:1

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-

1 Corinthians 1:1

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1

## Apostles Are Sent To People Groups

### Paul was "the apostle to the Gentiles"

Romans 11:13

13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry

Galatians 2:8

8 For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles.

## There Will Be Evidence Of Someone Being A True Apostle

**Paul's apostleship was evidenced by the fruit of the Corinthian Christians' lives.**

1 Corinthians 9:1,2

1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? 2 Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

### **Apostles were teaching**

Acts 2:42

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 4:2

2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

Acts 4:33

33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

Acts 5:21

21 At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin-the full assembly of the elders of Israel-and sent to the jail for the apostles.

### **Signs and wonders done by apostles**

Acts 2:43

43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 5:12

12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.

2 Corinthians 12:12

12 The things that mark an apostle – signs, wonders and miracles – were done among you with great perseverance.

## **A Servant/A Father: The Heart of a True Apostle**

### **Not just an apostle, but also...**

Paul

2 Timothy 1:11

11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald (preacher) and an apostle and a teacher.

Titus 1:1

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness-

Peter

2 Peter 1:1

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

### **Persecution of apostles**

Acts 5:18

18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

Acts 5:40

40 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Acts 5:41

41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Acts 8:1

1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

Romans 16:7

7 Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

1 Corinthians 4:9

9 For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

### **Test Those Who Call Themselves Apostles**

Revelation 2:2

2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

2 Corinthians 11:13

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:6

6 We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.

Galatians 2:2

I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain.

“The Great Apostle Paul” submitted his teaching to leaders for evaluation.

- Do their lives show Christ-likeness?
- Have they gone to places or people groups and started ministry from the ground up?
- Are there signs and wonders occurring in their ministry?