

Ephesians Series

Lesson #005

October 28, 2018

Dean Bible Ministries

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EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

**Never Underestimate
the Power of Grace
Ephesians 1:1a**

Eph. 1:1, “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

Eph. 1:2, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

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1. Who is Paul?

2. What is “an apostle”?

1. Who is Paul?

**Key verses to read: Acts 9:1–30;
Acts 22:3–21; Phil. 3:1–6; Gal. 1:13–14**

Paul's Early Life: Saul of Tarsus



Paul's Early Life: Saul of Tarsus

Phil. 3:4, “though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

Phil. 3:5, “circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

Phil. 3:6, “concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

Gal. 1:13, “For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”

Gal. 1:14, “And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”

Acts 22:5, “as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.”

Acts 26:9, “Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 26:10, “This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.”

Acts 9:3, “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

Acts 9:4, “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’

Acts 9:5, “And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

Acts 9:6, “So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’ ”

Acts 9:15, “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

Acts 9:16, “ ‘For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.’ ”

Phil. 3:8, “... that I may gain Christ

Phil. 3:9, “and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;”

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Apostleship



1. apostle [ἀπόστολος *apostolos*]

Classical Greek: The commander of a military or naval operation or governor of a Greek colony

New Testament: A man in the NT officially commissioned by an authorizing agent and given the authority to perform a task

**2. The first use of the verb is in Mark 3:14;
the first use of the noun is in Matt. 10:2;
Luke 6:13.**

Mark 3:14, “Then He appointed twelve [“and called them apostles” Cr Text but doubtful, not in MajT], that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,”

Matt. 10:2, “Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;”

Luke 6:13, “And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:”

3. Jesus as the Apostle of our faith

Hebrews 3:1, “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,”

4. Uses in the New Testament

**79 uses of the noun; 66 in Acts &
Epistles**

130 uses of the verb; most are general

5. The key issue to determine in context is:

Who is doing the sending?

What is the mission?

When does the sending occur (in the Gospels or in the Church Age)?

6. Two categories of apostles existed:

The unique spiritual gift given to the Twelve (Rev. 21:14). These were:

commissioned personally by the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ;

given the authority

to communicate the gospel and Church Age doctrine throughout the world,

to lead the incipient Church, to write the

canonical books of the New Testament, and

temporarily empowered to perform miracles and healings to authenticate their mission

(2 Cor. 12:12).

The temporary spiritual gift of apostle vanished with the death of John, the last apostle, ca. AD 96.

2. A pioneer missionary commissioned by a local church in the first century AD who did not possess the spiritual gift of apostle but was sent out under the authority of those with the gift of apostleship (Acts 14:14; Rom. 16:7) to evangelize and establish churches.

Acts 14:14, “But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out”

Rom. 16:7, “Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.”

7. In the Church Age, apostle was a spiritual gift. As such it cannot be bestowed by man. All spiritual gifts are sovereignly bestowed at the moment of salvation by the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 12:28, “And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

1 Cor. 12:29, “All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?”

Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

8. Qualifications:

Acts 1:22, “beginning with the baptism of John, until the day that He was taken up from us — one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

1 Cor. 15:8, “Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

1 Cor. 15:9, “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”

9. Delegated the ability to perform miracles.

2 Cor. 12:12, “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

Acts 2:43, “And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.”

Acts 5:12, “And at the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico.”

Acts 16:16, “Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:17, “This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, ‘These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.’

Acts 16:18, “And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that very hour.”

Acts 19:11, “Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,

Acts 19:12, “so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.”

10. Apostleship came only after the Day of Pentecost and the beginning of the Church Age.

Matt. 10 has nothing to do with apostleship.

Compare Eph. 4:8–11 with Matt. 16:18 where Jesus said the church was still future. Matt. 16 is after Matt. 10. No apostles to the church until after the descent of the Holy Spirit at the Day of Pentecost.

11. The apostles were recipients of direct revelation from God and were the only authorized source for revelation. Once the last apostle disappeared, so did revelation.

2 Tim. 3:16–17; 2 Pet. 1:20–21

Eph. 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”

12. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, and Peter was specifically identified as the apostle to the Jews.

Gal. 2:7, “But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

Gal. 2:8, “(for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),”

13. No such thing as apostolic succession of persons, only succession of doctrine.

The gift died in the first generation, there was no provision for successors.