

APOSTLESHIP

Looking briefly at the issue of apostleship. How come apostles? Who is an apostle? How to identify an apostle amongst men and brethren of the Church? And so on. We have Sinners-- Followers -- Believers -- Disciples -- Apostles. Apostles are sent by Christ to make Disciples for him fundamentally.

Jn 8:26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but He that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. **Vr.30** As He spoke these words, many believed on him. **Vr.31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; **Vr.32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. **Vr.36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Sinners have the true gospel preached to them and they hearken in order to follow Christ as Followers. From being Followers, they graduate to become Believers. As Believers in Christ as the Son of God, if they continue in the doctrine as taught by the Master Jesus Christ, submitting to baptism in his death, they shall become Disciples indeed. As Disciples having the Truth revealed to them by the Spirit of truth they shall be made free truly from the bondage of sin as Born Again Christians unto eventually being chosen as Apostles of Christ by the Master himself.

It is apostles that Christ commissioned to go into the world with the gospel of Truth in order to make disciples of all nations from the onset not just the ordinary disciples. Apostles are those that have learned at the feet of Christ having been taught of his doctrine by him. And having a good Spirit inspired understanding of the words of Christ that richly dwell in them. An apostle is one that the Lord hath opened his understanding greatly concerning the Bible and beyond.

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Eph 4:20 But ye have not so learned Christ; **Vr.21** If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, **Vr.2** Until the day in which He was taken up, after that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen: **Vr.3** To whom also He shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible

proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: **Vr.4** And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. **Vr.5** For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. **Vr.8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. **Vr.9** And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. **Vr.15** And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) **Vr.21** Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **Vr.22** Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that He was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. **Vr.24** And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, **Vr.25** That He may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that He might go to his own place. **Vr.26** And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and He was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Lk 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

Lk 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **Vr.47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **Vr.48** And ye are witnesses of these things. **Vr.49** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you:

An apostle of Christ is, first and foremost, one that has been given or has received the keys of the kingdom of heaven from Christ being his Lord and Master who hath baptized him with the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of truth.

Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Such as must have been given and received the word of truth in his heart by the revelations of Christ, not of men or words as taught by men. An apostles is one being taught and led by the Holy Spirit, not by men; For that is the promise of God in the New Covenant as it were.

Mtt 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? **Vr.16** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. **Vr.17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood

hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. **Vr.18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **Vr.19** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven:

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Hebr 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: **Vr.11** And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Jn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. **Vr.14** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

An apostle is one that hath been sent to teach about the kingdom of heaven, rightly dividing the word of truth, in making disciples for Christ with signs and wonders following as it were. They are the faithful and true witnesses of the testimonies of Jesus Christ and the word of God. **Rev 1:9**

Jn 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. **Vr.15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. **Vr.16** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:

Mtt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **Vr.19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Vr.20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

An apostle is a custodian of the mysteries of God, His Christ and of the Kingdom, just as the Pharisees were they custodians of the Scriptures of the Law and the Prophets in their time. With the keys given to him, the apostle is able to unravel the parables of the mysteries of the kingdom as taught by Christ. **Mtt 23:1-3; Lk 10:21-24**

An apostle is one that has been privileged to have his ears and eyes opened to know and understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven more than many. This is a foundational qualification of one that is truly called an apostle. He is not ignorant of the principles of the doctrine of Christ as many others are. He must be one that has tasted of the good word of God, the powers of the world to come having been made a partaker of the Holy Ghost. **Hebr 6:1-5**

Mtt 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. **Vr.10** And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? **Vr.11** He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. **Vr.16** But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

I Cor 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Cor 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; **Vr.6** Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Gal 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. **Vr.12** For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Eph 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: **Vr.3** How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, **Vr.4** Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) **Vr.5** Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

I Jn 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Jn 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. **Vr.45** It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Apostles are sent to make disciples of the nations for Christ and not for men or denominations. They are chosen from amongst the many disciples, ordained and

sent by Christ, the Master into the world. The people that Christ gave what is popularly called The Great Commission commandment were the eleven apostles of Christ specifically and not to every disciple of his at that time.

Jn 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples [*the apostles*] were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, "Peace be unto you. **Vr.21** Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. **Vr.22** And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: **Vr.23** Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. **Vr.24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

Mk 16:14 Afterward He appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after He was risen. **Vr.15** And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **Vr.16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but He that believeth not shall be damned. **Vr.17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; **Vr.18** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. **Vr.20** And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Jn 3:22 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there He tarried with them, and baptized. **Vr.23** And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. **Vr.26** And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, He that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. **Vr.27** John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

Jn 4:1 When therefore the LORD knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, **Vr.2** (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

Mk 3:7 But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea, **Vr.13** And He goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom He would: and they came unto him. **Vr.14** And He ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that He might send them forth to preach, **Vr.15** And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Lk 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. **Vr.13** And when it was day, He called unto him his disciples: and of them He chose twelve, whom also He named apostles;

An apostle of Christ is not chosen nor ordained of men in an open shew of "an ordination or consecration service" nor of "a transfer of mantle" programme, but of Christ even in the closet. His apostleship is recognized and acknowledged by his fellow brethren subsequently. It is not by paper qualifications or credentials but of the Spirit manifestation in and through him. **Gal 1:11-12**

Jn 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? **Vr.71** He spoke of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for He it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

It is not an apostle that chooses Christ, rather it is Christ that chooses him out of the many disciples that hath been called of his heavenly Father and drawn to him. The calling of an apostle is a heavenly one and not an earthly one. It is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth, but of Christ that chooseth. Apostleship is not of the will of man but of the will of Christ. **Lk 9:57-62; Mk 5:18-20**

Unfortunately, today many are ordained of men as apostles, while some take it upon themselves to be called apostle as a title by mouth. Their apostleship is by the approval and ordination of men. Such usually go about seeking worldly fame, glory, all in the bid to gain the whole world contrary to Christ's example. **Acts 19:13-17**

Mtt 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Jn 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. **Vr.44** No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. **Vr.65** And He said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Christ reveals to the apostle in the Truth the person of the Father and all that the Father hath taught him that such needs to know for life and godliness. An apostle is one that has received greater revelation of the truth more than the rest disciples having undergone unique tutelage by the Spirit of truth. He is not a servant of men nor is he a respecter of persons where the faith of Jesus Christ is concerned. He is a servant of Christ alone and not that of men as his mentors cum spiritual fathers. **Jam 2:1; I Cor 7:23; Gal 1:10**

Lk 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and

hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. **Vr.22** All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him [*which he does to his apostles*].

Jn 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you. **Vr.15** Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

An apostle is one that is begotten by the word of truth and is drawn to the truth that is of Christ, having the truth sustained in him by the Spirit of truth as it were. He is one that truly and deeply loves Christ out of his heart and not by mere mouth. Wherever Christ is there they shall always be found as it was on earth so shall it be in heaven. **Jn 12:25-26; Jn 14:1-4**

Jn 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. **Vr.15** If ye love me, keep my commandments. **Vr.16** And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; **Vr.17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Jn 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

An apostle is a sheep of Christ, but one prepared and sent by Christ to feed his lambs.

Jn 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. **Vr.27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: **Vr.28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, **Vr.29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all;

Jn 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. **Vr.16** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. **Vr.17** He saith unto him

the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because He said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And He said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. **Vr.22** Jesus saith unto him, If I will that He tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

The apostle is not a master or lord over his fellow brethren but one to whom the Master and Lord Jesus Christ has given charge as a steward or overseer of his flock even though a member of the flock too. Though he is greater or chief among his brethren, yet he has not come to be ministered to but to minister even as Christ showed us an example unlike how the heathens do. **Mtt 20:25-28; Mtt 23:6-12**

Mtt 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? **Vr.46** Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. **Vr.47** Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. **Vr.48** But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; **Vr.49** And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; **Vr.50** The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, **Vr.51** And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jn 13:13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. **Vr.14** If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **Vr.15** For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. **Vr.16** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. **Vr.17** If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. **Vr.18** I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen:

An apostle is a preacher of the true gospel and a teacher of the doctrine of Christ. He is sent forth to raise the Church from amongst the nations through the preaching and teaching of the gospel with signs and wonders following. He is not a disciple of men, but that of Christ. An apostle is one that is ready to die for Christ and the gospel sake. He is one that forsaketh all, denying himself for the Christ that giveth him life.

An apostle is a child of the kingdom no longer a child of the world having been translated by faith into the kingdom of Christ. He is no longer of the world having been chosen by Christ out of the world.

Jn 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.