

# “AMBASSADORS”

(II Cor.5:20)

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are three terms used in the New Testament for the “apostles.”
  1. **Apostles**, Matt. 10:2, the Lord chose these to send forth – “One Sent.”
  2. **Witnesses**, Jno. 15:26-27; Acts 1:8, The apostles were to be “witnesses.”
  3. **Ambassadors**, II Cor. 5:20; Eph. 6:20. (This is the only two times, the English word “ambassador) appears in the KJV & ASV.
  4. In these two places we shall see how the word is used and draw a conclusion concerning the same.
- B. Our study will have to do with these three words.

## I. THE WORD APOSTLE IS USED TO DESIGNATE THE TWELVE, THE LORD WOULD SEND FORTH:

- A. These are referred to as being apostles; because, they were sent by the Lord.
  1. These are called “apostles,” Matt. 10:2.
  2. One requirement was, “Have I not seen the Lord,” I Cor. 9:1.
  3. Look at the requirements, otherwise, to be met when one was selected in the place of Judas, Acts 1:21-22.
  4. The Lord appeared to Saul to make him an apostle, Acts 26:16.
  5. Saul was not disobedient to the command of the Lord, Acts 26:19.
  6. Saul was not one whit behind the chiefest of the apostles, II Cor. 12:11.
  7. Saul did the signs of an apostle, proving he was an apostle, II Cor. 12:12
  8. When the statement is made concerning the “Apostles Teachings,” Paul was to be numbered among them, Acts 2:42; I Cor. 14:37.
  9. Paul, his apostleship, was “untimely born,” I Cor. 15:8.
- B. There is a sense in which Barnabas was designated as a “apostle;” but, this seems to be an apostle of the church, rather than an apostles of Christ, Acts 14:14. (Gal. 1:19?).
- C. The apostles were instructed and informed what would happen when the “**Baptism of the Holy Spirit**” came upon them, Jno. 13 – 17.
  1. The apostles were the only ones at the last supper, Matt. 26:20 – it was the twelve that gathered with him at the last supper.
  2. It was the twelve who received the promises, Jno. 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-11; 16:13-16.
  3. Jesus was the administrator of the “baptism of the Holy Spirit,” Matt. 3:11.
  4. In Acts 1:4, we are told the baptism of the Holy Spirit was a “**promise**,” not a command! No one could ever obey the command of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – it was a promise.
  5. In Acts 2:1-4 the Apostles received the “**promise**” of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
  6. It was the twelve that received the **promise** and it was the twelve that received the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:1-4.

7. Follow the noun from Acts 1:26, the “apostles,” and you will see that the pronouns in Acts 2:1-4 will refer to the “apostles.” All of the apostles were “Galileans,” and that is who received the “baptism of the Holy Spirit,” Acts 2:7. It was the **Galileans** that received the baptism of the Holy Spirit; thus, the Apostles doctrine, Acts 2:42.
8. The apostles were promised, the apostles did receive it, and thus their teaching is referred to as “the apostles Doctrine!”

D. Because of the qualifications listed above, it becomes obvious there are no apostles today. The Mormons are all wrong about their “apostles.”

## II. THE APOSTLES WE RE REFERRED TO AS “WITNESSES:”

- A. For a person to be a witness: the qualifications are listed in Acts 1:21-22.
  1. We need to remember, one was being selected in the place of Judas; who was one of the apostles – the apostles were “witnesses.”
  2. In Acts 1:8, these apostles were to *“be witnesses both in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost part of the world.”*
- B. Being a witness is described in I John 1:1, *“That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we beheld, and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life.”*
- C. These folks, the apostles, were truly witnesses of Christ. This becomes an explanation of Acts 5:32, not everyone; but, the apostles who were witnesses.
- D. No one in the world today can be thus qualified.
- E. The Baptists who claim to **“witness for Christ,”** do no such thing. They do not know what a witness is!

## III. THE APOSTLES, WITNESSES, WERE ALSO “AMBASSADORS” OF CHRIST: II Cor.5:20; Eph.6:20.

- A. **Easton’s Bible Dictionary:** *“This is the name used by the apostles as designating those who are appointed by God to declare his will (II Cor. 5:20; Eph. 6:20).” W. E. Vine’s says: “PRESBEUO, (a) to be elder or eldest, prior in birth or age; (b) to be an ambassador II Cor. 5:20, and Eph. 6:20.” There is a suggestion that to be an ambassador for Christ involves the experience suggested by the word “elder.” - PRESBEUO is a Greek word associated with the work of elders, Caa.*
- B. It is suggested in **Easton’s Bible Dictionary**, **“those who are appointed by God to declare his will (II Cor. 5:20; Eph. 6:20).”** Paul was **called** and **appointed**, *“16 But arise, and stand upon thy feet: for to this end have I appeared unto thee, to appoint thee a minister and a witness both of the things wherein thou hast seen me, and of the things wherein I will appear unto thee; 17 delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom I send thee,”* Acts 26:16-17. It is easy to see this appointment is the appointment spoken of by Easton’s Bible Dictionary and thus making him an **Ambassador!**

- C. The Greek word “**PRESBEUO**” is associated with an Elder man; thus, the Apostles were Witnesses, and Ambassadors – older men appointed by Jesus. This will eliminate many things that need to be considered. This would eliminate **women**; this would eliminate **young men**. Thus a special class of men with maturity to represent Jesus as they went through Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the utter most parts of the world, Acts 1:8. They were “**appoint-ed**” by the Lord, to this task, and can truly be consider “**ambassadors**” for Christ.
- D. **Additionally**, one needs to consider the book of I Corinthians and II Corinthians as material defending his “**Apostleship**”. It is stated in I Cor. 9:1, “*1 ..... am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for the seal of my apostleship are ye in the Lord. 3 My defence to them that examine me is this,*” I Cor. 9:1-3. In this text Paul is **defending his apostleship**; because, there were those who were thinking he was not an apostle. In II Corinthians he is defending the same and more so: “*10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this gloring in the regions o Achaia. 11 Wherefore? Because I love you not? God knoweth. 12 But what I do that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from him that desire an occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles or Christ. 14 And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light. 15 It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works,*” II Cor. 11:10-15. According to Paul, there were those claiming to be apostles who were not apostles, they were false apostles, they were **not AMBASSADORS!** Consider further, “*11 I am become foolish; ye compelled me; for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing was I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I am nothing. 12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, by signs and wonders and mighty works,*” II Cor. 12:11-12. In all of this, Paul is contending he **IS** an apostle, witness and an ambassador.
- E. Note in **Eph. 6:20**, “*20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*” I learn from this text that Paul was an “**ambassador**” and he was pleased to be such. Consider **II Cor. 5:20**, “*20 We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God.*” Remember Paul is arguing himself as the **source** of the mystery from God. He gave it to Apollos, Timothy, Titus and thus uses the word “**we**,” I Cor. 4:6.
- F. From the first epistle Paul writes to the brethren at Corinth, he begins with the fact of him being an “**APOSTLE**,” I Cor. 1:1. The emphasis is that, “*1 And I, brethren, when I came unto you, came not with excellency of speech or of Wis-dom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified,*” I Cor. 2:1-2. Paul is appealing to his apostleship and that he was fulfilling his commission to preach the Gospel of Christ – I am an apostle! I Cor. 1:1. There seems to be knowledge that he had that there were some who were questioning his apostleship, I Cor. 9:1, “*1 ..... Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?*”

- G. Consider the fact that Paul speaks concerning Timothy, Apollos and Titus and that he furnished them the scheme of redemption and often in I Cor. & II Cor. uses the word we to signify the message that came from him: *“6 Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sake; that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other,”* I Cor. 4:6. His argument in all this is the message came from him because he is an **“apostle!”** **Often**, Paul uses the word “we;” alluding to the **source** from which the word of God came, II Cor. 4:7, *“7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of god, and not from ourselves.”* This statement, and the fact of *“this treasure in earthen vessels,”* has to be associated with the apostles and the message given them as they went forth preaching and teaching **“the apostles teaching,”** Acts 2:42. Notice also that the “laying on of hands,” was done by the apostles and the **source** of the Word of God was from them, Acts 8; Acts 19; Rom. 1:11, *“11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established.”*
- H. In **II Cor. 5:20** he is talking about the **source** of the material he has presented and that it is from God: The “we” in this context is discussing from whom the message came – the apostles, witnesses, or the **AMBASSATORS**. Paul feels he has presented material that will establish him as an **APOSTLE** and at the same time show there are those among them who are **FALSE APOSTLES**.
- I. Hear again the message from Paul, *“19 and on my behalf, that utterance may be given unto me in opening **my** mouth, to make known with boldness the **mystery of the gospel**, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak,”* Eph. 6:19-20. In this Paul is saying: I am an **“apostle,” “witness,”** and an **“ambassador”** of Jesus the Christ. Caa ....

Carl Adon Allen  
 1115 E. Houston Ave.  
 Crockett, Tx. 75835  
 (936) 544-3614  
[carladonallwn@gmail.com](mailto:carladonallwn@gmail.com)