

ACTS 9 PART III

Main Point: What is the Ministry of the Apostle?

*Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,
and the pastors and teachers
Ephesians 4:11 NLT*

Digging Deeper

What is an apostle? According to scripture, it is a person who is hand-selected by Christ, as an EYEWITNESS to the resurrection, sent out on a mission, in the full authority of Christ to work signs and wonders for the purpose of validating the message of Christ to bring people to faith in Christ. (Luke 6:13-16, Acts 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 15:8-10, 2 Corinthians 12:12)

Since we have no hand-selected, eyewitnesses of Christ, the office of the 'Apostle' in the biblical sense is no longer present today. So what do we do now? The Bible says that the disciples were committed to the apostles' teaching. Where do we find that today since the apostles are no longer with us?

The good news is that we have it all written down for us in scripture. Many times we forget that the ultimate authority on who God is and 'Sound Doctrine' does not come from preachers, pastors, bishops, archbishops, modern prophets, modern 'apostles', or any other human with a fancy title. It simply comes from the Bible: God's Written Word. 1 John 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." This means that we need to test EVERY teaching against God's word ourselves to make sure that it is in fact sound doctrine coming from the Lord. In order to do that we must be reading the word for ourselves.

Discussion Questions

1. The office of the 'Apostle' is not present today. However, we are each to be faithful 'witnesses' to the resurrection. How are you doing the work of ministry in your life?
2. Acts 2:42 shows us that the apostles taught, sound doctrine, and the disciples were committed to their teaching. Now that it is written for us in the Bible, are you committed to sound doctrine? How can you make more time for God's Word not man's word in your life?
3. Each of us are given spiritual gifts to use in His Kingdom. Do you know yours? How do you use it for His Glory?
4. Every believer is called to be a messenger of the Gospel and Resurrection. As such, EVERY action we take says something about the God we believe in. What kind of message are you sending out?
5. What does it mean to you to bring someone to Christ? Can we make someone believe? Or do we just present them with the Truth?