

Theme: Paul was called as an Apostle to the Gentiles, and as such speaks with the full authority of Jesus Himself.

## I. Intro – My Commission

- A. Copy of my commission
- B. My authority to lead Marines
- C. Paul had a commission as well – from Christ
- D. Quick review of previous weeks & intro of today
- E. Paul's claim to apostleship (1:1; 1:17; 2:8)

## II. What Was An Apostle?

- A. What was an Apostle?
  - 1. Defining ἀπόστολος – one sent; messenger
  - 2. They speak with authority of one sending – Lk 10:16
- B. The biblical use of “apostle”
  - 1. Jesus is the ultimate Apostle – Hebrews 3:1
  - 2. Broad sense – messengers of churches (Ph 2:25; 2 Cor 8:23)
  - 3. Restricted sense – THE Apostles – twelve, James, and Paul

## III. Was Paul An Apostle?

- A. The biblical qualifications to be an Apostle
  - 1. Seen resurrected Christ (Lk 24:46-48; Acts 2:32; 3:15; 10:41)

- 2. Commissioned directly by Christ (Mark 3:14; Acts 1:24)

## B. Paul's fulfillment of the qualifications

- 1. Saw resurrected Christ – Acts 22:8; 26:15; 1 Cor 9:1; 15:7-9
- 2. Commissioned – Acts 26:15-18; Gal 1:1, almost all letters

## C. Paul: Apostle to the Gentiles (1:16; 2:7-9; Acts 26:15-18)

- 1. An Apostle just like the 12 – saw & commissioned
- 2. Special task – Apostle to the Gentiles

## IV. Why Apostleship Is Important

### A. Jesus continues His ministry through Apostles

- 1. Jesus at work through them – 2:8; Acts 1:1-8
- 2. They are His direct representatives

### B. Jesus speaks through the Apostles

- 1. Spirit guides them into all truth – John 16:13-14
- 2. Their words are God's words – 1 Th 2:13; 1 Cor 14:37; 2 Pet 3:2

### C. When Paul speaks, Christ speaks!

- 1. Clip – Jesus & Paul – Paul the Author – “Jesus not Paul”
- 2. Paul's words are Christ's' – 2 Pet 3:15-16
- 3. Ignore Paul – ignore Jesus & Father – Luke 10:16; 1 Th 4:8

## V. Conclusion & Summary

A. Do you see the authority of the Apostles?

1. When they speak, Jesus speaks – same word
2. Many today (as then) try to split them up
3. Example: homosexuality – “Jesus never spoke”
  - a. Patricia Ireland on Fox News 11/11/2004
  - b. Common argument put forth today
  - c. Jesus did not specifically mention many sins (pedophilia, rape)
  - d. Jesus spoke against all sexual sin – including this
  - e. Jesus spoke through apostles on this specifically

B. Do you accept ALL of God’s instruction?

1. People do this to get rid of parts they don’t like
2. We can’t do this! Must submit to all Scripture

Paul: Apostle of Christ to the Gentiles

Galatians 1:13-24  
December 12, 2004  
?????????????  
2 Corinthians 13:14

