

2 Peter Series

Lesson #005

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST—**

**PART 2**

**2 PETER 1:1**

**2 Pet. 1:1, “Simon Peter, a bondservant  
and apostle of Jesus Christ,**

**To those who have obtained like precious  
faith with us by the righteousness of our  
God and Savior Jesus Christ:”**

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**37× in New**

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**masc sing nom**

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**ἀπόστολος Ἰησοῦ  
Χριστοῦ**

***apostolos Iesou Christou***

**“*apostolos*” has no  
article which emphasizes  
the quality of the noun**

**“commissioned to  
perform a task; sent on a  
mission, a military or  
political envoy, an  
ambassador”**

# What the Bible Teaches About *Apostleship*



# 1. apostle [ἀπόστολος *apostolos*]

***Cl Grk:* the commander of a military or naval operation or governor of a Greek colony.**

***New Testament:* A man in the New Testament 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.**

### **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. 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)?**

**5. “Apostle” was a temporary spiritual gift.**

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

**1 Cor. 12:29, “Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?”**

**1 Cor. 13:8, “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will be done away; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will be done away.”**

**1 Cor. 13:9, “For we know in part and we prophecy in part.”**

**1 Cor. 13:10, “But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”**

**1 Cor. 13:11 uses the adult-child analogy; the child is when things are incomplete; the adult is when things are complete.**

**1 Cor. 13:11, “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

**1 Cor. 13:12, “For now [*artī*] we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now [*artī*] I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”**

**1 Cor. 13:9 states that two gifts are incomplete [*in part*]:**

**1 Cor. 13:12, “For now [*arti*] we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.”**

**now [*arti*] = now in the present, immediate time; the apostolic period with an incomplete Canon.**

**then = a broader period, the period of the Church Age following the completion of the Canon.**

**1 Cor. 13:9 states that two gifts are incomplete [*in part*]: knowledge and prophecy.**

**Example 1: Incomplete prophecy**

**1 Cor. 13:12, “For now [*arti*] we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.”**

**Example 2: Incomplete knowledge.**

**“Now [*arti*] I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”**

**Num. 12:6, “Then He said,**

**‘Hear now My words:**

**If there is a prophet among you,**

**I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in  
a vision;**

**I speak to him in a dream.**

**Num. 12:7, “ ‘Not so with My servant Moses;**

**He is faithful in all My house.**

**Num. 12:8, “ ‘I speak with him face to face,**

**Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;**

**And he sees the form of the LORD.**

**Why then were you not afraid**

**To speak against My servant Moses?’ ”**

**1 Cor. 13:13, “And now [*nunī*] abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”**

**Paul is saying that in the “then” period, the incomplete has been abolished, but faith, hope, love continue.**

**Faith and hope are not based on sight. When we are with Jesus, we see Him and faith and hope are no longer part of the scenario.**

**Heb. 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**

**Rom. 8:24, “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?”**

**Rom. 8:25, “But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”**

**Eph. 2:19, “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,**

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

**6. As a foundational gift, and a gift that required a personal commissioning by the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as having been a witness of the resurrected Lord Jesus, apostleship was a temporary gift.**

## **7. Two categories of apostles existed:**

**a. 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.**

**b. 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.”**

**8. 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,”**

## 9. 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.”**

**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.**

**2 Peter 1:2a, “To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:”**