

The Book of Romans

Lesson 2

9/4/2019

Romans 1:1 "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, ..." (KJV)

What is an Apostle?

ἀπόστολος - Greek word

apostolos

Thayer Definition:

1) a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders

1a) **specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ**

1b) **in a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers**

1b1) **of Barnabas**

1b2) **of Timothy and Silvanus**

Definition from Strong's lexicon:

From G649; **a delegate; specifically an ambassador of the Gospel;**

officially a commissioner of Christ ("apostle"), (with miraculous powers):

- apostle, messenger, he that is sent.

Qualifications to be one of the 12 apostles: (Peter speaking in Acts 1)

Act 1:20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE (Judas Iscariot).' **21** **'Therefore it is**

necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us— **22** **beginning with the**

baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.' **23** So they

put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. **24** And they prayed and said, 'You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen **25** to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own

place.' 26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles."

Paul was not one of the twelve who were commissioned to minister specifically to the Nation of Israel - the Jewish people, because He did not fit the qualification of Acts 1:21 & 22. But Paul was an apostle on the same level as the twelve having seen Christ and having been taught by Christ directly!!!

1 Corinthians 15:5 "and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also."

What did Jesus tell Paul at the time of his conversion?

Act 9:5 "And he (Paul) said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."

Act 9:15 "But the Lord said to him (Ananias - Person who God sent to pray for Paul - for Paul to regain his sight and receive the Holy Spirit, Vs 17), "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

Paul, writing to the church at Galatia said: Galatians 1:1 "Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),..."

11 "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. 13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: ..."

15 "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I

might preach him among the heathen (Gentile Nations - Gen 12:3; Gen 18:18; Gen 22:18; Galatians 3:8, 15-18); immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: 17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

2:7 "But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; 8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) 9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."

Corinthians 15:9 "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

The twelve apostles commissioned directly by Christ; and the apostle Paul, who also was commissioned directly by Christ were The apostles and were separated from all the others who also were called apostles; though the others were apostles in the broader sense of the word!!! (Above, Thayer's definition parts 1b; 1b1; 1b2). The Apostle Paul, after leaving Corinth where he wrote the letter to the church at Rome and while in Ephesus on his third missionary journey, expressed his desire to go to Rome, Act 19:21 "Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." After reaching Jerusalem after the third missionary Journey, the Lord spoke to Paul saying, Act 23:11 "But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, 'Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also.'"