

#29 The Apostle Paul | September 16, 2018

The Ministry of the Twelve

- Our Lord selected 12 men to serve as His apostles.
- These men were not only to minister as companions of Jesus, but spent time with Him learning the things of the Kingdom in order to serve a Kingdom goal.
  - Matthew 13:10-11 explains that the Kingdom mysteries were explained to the Apostles.
  - Matthew 13:13-17 confirms that the parables of Matthew 13 are *kingdom* not *church* related and were given to the apostles for unique knowledge.
- These men were told of the future role of their apostleship: Matthew 19:28.
- When Judas was unfaithful to the point that it would be inappropriate for him to fulfill His Kingdom role, he was replaced as an apostle: Acts 1:16-17 and following. However, upon the death of James he was *not* replaced because he and the others will fulfill their position after the resurrection.
- With the addition of Matthias to replace Judas, there is no need for another kingdom related apostle.

The Rejection of the Kingdom

- The Kingdom will be preceded by the repentance of the Jewish people, and will be the promised *times of refreshing* (Acts 3:19-21).
- Stephen, the deacon, gave an “offense” to the Jewish nation concerning the Kingdom, after which the nation killed him.
  - The summary point of Stephen’s sermon: Acts 7:51.
  - The strike point of Stephen’s sermon: Acts 7:55-56.
  - The response of Stephen’s sermon: Acts 7:57-60.

Paul: the *Johnny-come-lately* Apostle

- Immediately with the stoning of Stephen, a new apostle is introduced, though at this time he is Saul, the persecutor of the believers – Acts 8:1-3.
- Saul’s work of persecution was directed toward synagogue members who believed that Jesus was the coming Messiah – Acts 9:1-2.
- On the road to Damascus the Lord met Saul and gave him a new calling – Acts 22:5-13, note these important facts:
  - Ananias was a **devout man according to the Law** - Acts 22:12

- Ananias knew that God was giving Saul a new and unique role – Acts 22:14.
- Ananias gave Paul instructions which are incompatible with the Age of Grace – Acts 22:16.

Was Paul’s Apostleship Different than the 12?

- Rom 11.13 – Paul says **I magnify mine office**. Is this acceptable if his office is the same as that of the 12?
- 2 Corinthians 11:5 – Paul says he is not in the least **behind the very chiefest apostles** (also 2 Cor. 12:11).
- Galatians 2:1-10 – Paul gives the testimony of his *very different Gospel* which had been given by revelation.
- Ephesians 3:2, 5 - Paul claims to have the **dispensation of grace** given unto him, and him alone.
- The logic question: *If Paul’s ministry only differs in audience, then...*
  - ...why does his message sound so different? (Acts 2:38 / Acts 16:30-31).
  - ...why does he make so many claims of “my gospel” or “the Gospel that I preach?”
  - ...will he sit on one of the twelve thrones of the Kingdom? If so, who will he supplant?
  - ...why does he claim to be the pattern for salvation by grace through faith? (1 Tim. 1:16).
- Understanding the distinct ministry of Paul is the most important distinction you can make to fully understand the Bible for today.

What you may not know

- Paul was likely a member of the Sanhedrin.
  - Acts 8:1 – Paul was **consenting** to Stephen’s death (also Acts 22:20).
  - Galatians 1:14 – Paul claimed to be **above many my equals** in Judaism.
  - Acts 26:10 – Paul said he gave his **voice against them**, using the word *sephos*, a small black stone used by a jury to condemn.
- Paul was a single man – 1 Corinthians 7:7-8 (contrary to popular belief, being a member of the Sanhedrin did not require marriage).
- Only Paul taught freedom from the Law and salvation that was by grace through faith without works and available to anyone. This is the Gospel we preach today.