Matt 128

Apostleship

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No Thursday class this week.

1st Thursday in New Year

Cameron and Nate sent cards and gifts…thank you especially for sending gifts for those in need.

Turn to 1Corinthians chapter 12.

In our study of pastor-teachers which is the true calling in the church age today for men who are to lead and teach from a church pulpit we must look at other titles like deacons….prophets…bishops and apostles.

There are teachers today…men who claim to be apostles yet that was an office designed by TLJC for a select group of 12 men, who He had intimate contact with. It was never to be an office that continued on after the completed canon of scripture. REPEAT

/Apostles were specific to the time of the crucifixion of Christ. Those men ordained by Jesus who witnessed His life and death and would receive divine insight by God after His ascension. Men responsible to develop churches and ordinations of pastor-teachers as well as complete the canon of scripture.\

REPEAT ELABORATE

In 1Corinthians chapter 12 the Apostle Paul is dealing with division in the church over gifts which Paul stresses that it is not that important because many gifts would be done away with after the Bible was completed.

/1Cor 12:28 And **God has appointed in the church**, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracle workers, then gifts of healings, helps, administration, various kinds of tongues. 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?\

God is the one who appoints church leadership.

Ultimately you should have a strong sense that God wants you to be a church leader before you attempt to jump in that role…and then you have to wait on the timing of God to open that door for you.

It goes on in verse 30 saying they all don’t have gifts of healing or tongues, do they?

Interesting because it also says they all can’t interpret the tongues, can they?

Interesting, that those who promote the gifts of tongues never talk about how the Bible commands that each word spoken be fully interpreted by someone other than the person speaking the tongue.

Turn to Romans chapter one with me Royal family.

As you turn to Romans chapter one I remind you of what we learned last lesson;

Eph 4:11 And He (God) gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

[Eph 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/4/12/s_1101012) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

[Eph 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/eph/4/13/s_1101013) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

You are no promoted to an office like pastor-teacher… evangelist, or deacon until God ordains you! The office is designed to build up the body of Christ not get rich or promote your own agenda.

Only 3 titles in CA for church leadership.

/1Cor 2:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one** individually just **as He wills**.\

The office of Apostle was a special office which expired with the death of the 12 Apostles.

In fact, in Revelation chapter 21 verse 14; It points to 12 gold foundation stones in heaven with the Apostles names upon them….only 12!

And the walls of the city in heaven run about 1500 miles long…think about those foundation stones. No other Apostles are mentioned in that scripture as well.

Look at Romans chapter one…

/Rom 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ, **called an apostle** (*apostolos*)**, set apart for the gospel of God**, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy scriptures,\

The Greek word – APOS-TA-LOSS is a masculine noun for a special messenger or one with authority who goes forth to present a message…in fact the root word it is pulled from means - *to go on a mission.* One who is sent out.

It is a title or office for only twelve men ordained by TLJC Himself. REPEAT

Also note that Paul says as an Apostle they were set apart by God for a specific mission. The gospel means the life and death of TLJC…everything that TLJC embodies which by the way…

The scriptures were still in the process of being written….mission was not yet fully completed concerning Apostleship.

Rom 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

/Rom 1:5 through whom **we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all Gentiles** for His name sake, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ,\

The focus for Paul was on the Gentiles.

Turn to 1Corinthians chapter 15 let us look at one of the main staples of being an Apostle….a face to face commission with TLJC!

Yes, all Apostles were set into place because TLJC Himself appointed each Apostle directly to their face.

Paul had to defend his apostleship early on because many Christians did not want to accept his authority.

/1Cor 9:1 Am I not free? **Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord**? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.\

Paul was hand selected by TLJC as was the other 12 Apostles.

Look at 1Cor chapter 15 verse 6;

1Cor 15:6 After that He (Jesus) appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

[1Co 15:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1co/15/7/s_1077007) then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

/1Co 15:8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, **He appeared to me** also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.\

In Acts Chapter nine we know TLJC knocks Saul of Tarsus to the ground and asks him…Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting ME? Which was step one of TLJC choosing Paul for His ministry. In that same chapter Acts 9:11 TLJC calls upon a disciple named Ananias to take care of Paul and let him know his new calling was for the gospel.

Then in Galatians we see Paul teaching this;

/Gal 1:11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me **is not according to man**. 12 For I neither received it from man , nor was I taught it, but **I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ**.\

REVELATION is that Greek verb -

PARA-LAM-BONO= which was often used when someone received information by a narrative but also by a divine set of standards where information is given because the person is in the right place at right time ….and absorbs something supernaturally.

Turn to 2 Corinthians chapter 12.

This will also help clarify that the Apostle Paul had one on one time with TLJC.

Truthfully Paul had divine knowledge given concerning mystery doctrine that many of the other Apostles had to learn from him.

2Cor 12:1 Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

Paul is talking about himself here…. his own experience.

/[2Co 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/2/s_1090002) I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man **was caught up to the third heaven**.\

The third heaven is believed to be the highest level of heaven where God the Father’s throne is! That Greek term HARP-POD-ZO is caught up…. taken from the Latin term we use for the word- rapture.

[2Co 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/3/s_1090003) And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—

Again, Paul is talking about himself in terms to let them know this was supernatural.

/[2Co 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/4/s_1090004) **was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words**, which a man is not permitted to speak.\

This is not the 3rd heaven most scholars believe this to be a holding place for Bels until the body of Christ is fully raptured and the Tribulation period begins. Paul is basically saying *I’ve been to heavenly places that only born again Bels who have died can see*…*I have been close to the throne room of God and I have been educated on a divine level that no one has before.*  REPEAT

[2Co 12:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/5/s_1090005) On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to *my* weaknesses.

[2Co 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/6/s_1090006) For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain *from this,* so that no one will credit me with more than he sees *in* me or hears from me.

The Apostle Paul is remaining humble here…but it is clear he has seen and heard things no living human being has ever seen or heard.

Paul got very special attention and personal lessons from TLJC in the heavenly realm.

All of the Apostles had healing and miracle power given for a period of time.

All of the Apostles assisted in getting the completed canon of scripture done. Even if it was only handling the documents of the OT and scrolls that Peter, Paul and John were writing.

 All of the Apostles had their gifts of miracles, signs and wonders removed before their death.

But the symbol for an Apostle was healing and miracles at the beginning stages of the early church.

/Act 5:12 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.\

While your in 2Cor chapter 12 look at the next few verses….

Apostle Paul tells a revealing fact about his life at that current point….

2Co 12:5 On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to *my* weaknesses.

[2Co 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/6/s_1090006) For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain *from this,* so that no one will credit me with more than he sees *in* me or hears from me.

Paul speaks of a Thorn in the Flesh which he had no power to remove at this time.

/[2Co 12:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/7/s_1090007) **Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations**, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, **there was given me a thorn in the flesh**, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!\

Because Paul was given great wisdom and authority God allowed him to have weaknesses but also Paul was not able to do anything miraculous at this time because his time for healings and miracles was passed.

[2Co 12:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/8/s_1090008) Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

[2Co 12:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/9/s_1090009) And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

/[2Co 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/2co/12/10/s_1090010) Therefore **I am well content with weaknesses**, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.\

The Apostle Paul was now in a position to fully realize his ministry and mission would soon be coming to an end.

The letters to the Corinthians were probably written around AD 55.

Keep in mind TLJC was probably crucified in April of AD 30…. give or take a year or two.

Scholars debate whether it was AD 30 or 33 …I won’t get into that discussion I’ll use AD 30 as a basic anchor for a time stamp.

Paul was martyred by AD 67….so my point is by this time when we see Paul writing from AD 55 or forward….. he was getting closer to the end of his ministry. All his writings and teachings were coming to an end.

Look at Philippians which was written during the prison time that Paul wrote letters in which his healing and miracle power was coming to an end.

Philippians was probably written around AD 60 to 62.

/Phi 2:27 For indeed **he was sick to the point of death**, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. (Epaphroditus)\

The Apostle Paul had no power to heal his closest friends even when it was a time of great need for him and his ministry.

Those men today who claim to be like the apostles and able to heal or preform miracles are either liars or they are extremely unique and they are one in ten thousand that God is using….I lean toward emotional nonsense and lies.

/2Ti 4:19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. 20 Erastus remained at Corinth, but **Trophimus I left sick** at Miletus.\

OH-NAY-SEE-FUSS TROFF-E-MUS

Again we see Paul was helpless to heal anyone at this point.

Paul along with all the other Apostles were assigned a specific amount of time and gifts that would all be complete once their share of teachings, writings and abilities to train new pastor-teachers came to an end.

REPEAT

This is why letters to Timothy were important because it was Paul’s last set of lessons and letters and really emphasized the gift of pastor-teacher.

/Apostles and those ordained by Apostles were responsible to complete and protect the canon of scripture. This was done by A.D. 96 as well as the early church being fully established. Also a large amount of pastor-teachers had been set into motion.\

REPEAT ELABORATE

Christ went to the cross AD 30….for the next 30 years or so…. gifts of healings, miracles, prophecy and tongues help establish the early church.

In fact the book of Acts covers that 30 year span of the early church and all the gifts and water baptism that went with it.

/The Apostles (original 11) were set up as Apostles over the lost sheep of Israel. After the Cross at Calvary the office of the Apostle was set into motion as the authority over Christianity until they completed their mission. Which was; establish churches and leaders, complete the New Testament, evangelize throughout the land.\

There was never another man ordained by the Apostles to become an Apostle, in fact when they tried to replace Judas Iscariot with Matthias (MAT-THIGH-US) in Acts chapter one God put a stop to it and TLJC stepped in to ordain Paul.

/Apostle were absolute authorities over early churches but today (C.A.), there is no longer Apostleship therefore no man can come into a church and impart his authority over a Pastor. This is why the Pastor is the final authority over his own flock and pulpit.\

/Apostles held the teachings and the inspiration for church leadership, that was replaced by A.D. 96 with the completed canon of scripture which holds the authority, prophecy and inspiration in Christianity today.\