

But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:4

“The Twelve”

George Hutto

Store In My Heart

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

Our understanding will always be limited by our experiences. No matter how much time or effort we spend we cannot know all that is involved. Because of this we will always be limited in what we can do for any given situation. When we struggle to understand why things happen or how we will endure, we see our limits and sometimes give up.

Yet God knows all, He can see the end of a matter. If we trust in His guidance we can have assurance of success. Even if this life ends, our trust in the Lord will carry us to Him for eternity. His path is always the right path to follow.

We must not let the weakness of worldly ideas get between us and God. He is always a sure and steady guide and will never let us fall if we hold onto Him through good and bad times.

The term apostle means "one sent forth." (Cruden's) This term is used of the twelve selected by Jesus "whom He named apostles" (**Luke 6:13**); of Paul; (**2Corinthians 11:5**) [Note also that Peter endorses Paul's work, **2Peter 3:2, 15-16**. If Paul had been a "false" apostle, Peter surely would have known about it.]; of Barnabas (**Acts 14:14**); of James the Lord's brother (**Galatians 1:19**); of Christ (**Hebrews 3:1**); and of false apostles (**2Corinthians 11:13**). The twelve selected by Jesus receive special treatment in Scripture. Although the other apostles, Paul, Barnabas, and James the Lord's brother, may have been as authoritative in some regards as the twelve [*"I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostle," 2Corinthians 11:5*], the twelve are unique in their place and work.

This fact is evident from the care taken by Christ in their selection (**Luke 6:12-13; John 6:70; John 17:6-12**), promises made to them, and the authority which they exhibited after the resurrection. Care was taken to replace Judas Iscariot with one apostle, not two or more, who was qualified. (**Acts 1**) We are not being hasty to conclude that the mention of the apostles other than the twelve were "ones sent forth," but in a different capacity from the twelve originally selected.

The apostles' work was unique in the following ways:

1) They were required to be well-acquainted with Christ while He walked on earth and witnesses of Him after the resurrection.

"Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection." (**Acts 1:21-22**)



2) They received the commission to preach Christ's gospel to all nations. *"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them....And Jesus came and spake unto them,..."* (**Matthew 28:16-20**)

3) They received the promise of the Holy Spirit, and in particular, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Luke refers to the giving of the Great Commission *"to the apostles whom He had chosen,"* then points to the promise of the baptism of the Spirit by John and adds *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."* (**Acts 1:2-8**) Paul writes to the Corinthians, *"Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you..."* (**2Corinthians 12:12**) The apostles were given special powers, (**Acts 2:43; Acts 5:12**) which signs were recognized as apostolic.

4) They possessed special authority among early Christians. When Paul listed the special gifts, he said, *"..First apostles..."* (**1Corinthians 12:28**) The first Christians continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine. (**Acts 2:42**) The Hebrew writer says that the great salvation first spoken by Christ was *"confirmed by those who heard Him."* Those who heard would be the apostles. (**Hebrews 2:3**) Jude points his readers to *"the words which were spoken before by the apostles,"* as he warns of false teachers.

The apostles' work was and is unique.

(A few words about Paul. Though he did not follow Jesus during His ministry on Earth, he received the same commission (specifically to the Gentiles), power and authority as the Twelve. Paul was an "eyewitness" of the resurrection (**1Corinthians 15:3-8**) and was sent by Jesus to teach the Word (**Acts 26:12-18**). As mentioned in the article, his writings are referenced as Scripture by Peter (**2Peter 3:15-16**). His message of righteousness, obedience and grace have the same power of authority as Peter and John. Scripture gives evidence of the authority Paul was given among the early Christians. It was not anything less than that of the Twelve who presented the Gospel on Pentecost in **Acts 2**. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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For Our Information

Vickie McNeas is still having some respiratory issues as she recovers from covid. She has a doctor appointment soon.

Sue Soliday has been dealing with problems from lymphedema in her arm the past few weeks. She had a doctor appointment scheduled last week.

Jim Soliday is still having random heart rhythm issues.

Shannon Soliday is working this weekend.

Jimmy & Annette Gray are out of town this weekend.

Sunday Evening – **Psalm 78:40** Wednesday - **John 7:40**

Gospel Meeting with Jared Hagan - September 15-19

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study