



The Twelve Apostles and Modern Day Claims for Apostleship (part 1)

There are at least two major religious bodies today who claim apostleship or apostolic like authority for individuals in their religion. The Mormons plainly state that they have living apostles in The Quorum of the Twelve. These, they claim, have apostolic authority just as the apostles of the New Testament. The Catholic church doesn't claim to have any modern day apostles, per se, but they believe strongly in the principle of apostolic succession which more or less states that they have individuals who are on par with the twelve apostles in the persons of their arch-bishops. There are also a litany of denominational preachers (mostly pentecostal in nature) who claim to be apostles with the same authority Jesus personally gave the twelve. These justify their claims by going to Ephesians 4:11 and saying that God gave some to be "apostles." Ought we to believe that God has given us apostles today? If so, in what

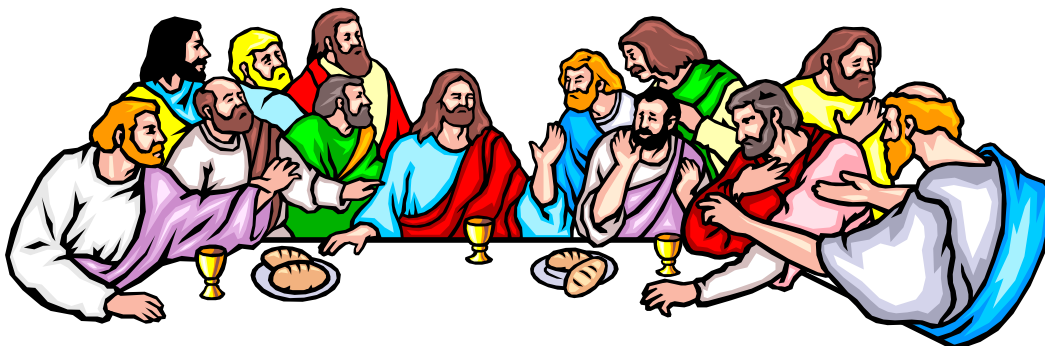
modalities ought these apostles to be considered?

The word "apostle" simply means "one who is sent." There is nothing extraordinary about this word in the Greek language. It was a word used in ancient literature to describe anyone who was sent on a particular mission. The New Testament describes more than just the twelve as apostles. The writer of the book of Hebrews calls Jesus an Apostle (Hebrews 3:1). Barnabas also was called an apostle in Acts 14:4 because he was one of the men sent specifically by the church at Antioch to go to the gentiles (see Acts 13:2-4). But there is also within the New Testament, a specialized sense in which this word is used. As we have come to know, it primarily refers to the office that was held by the twelve apostles given to them specifically by Jesus himself.

Jesus selected the twelve apostles specifically to be eye-

witnesses of his life. We find a listing of these men in Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, and Luke 6:13-16. Matthew and Luke specifically use the word "apostle" to describe these men. In the book of Acts also, Luke refers to them as the "apostles whom [Jesus] had chosen" (Acts 1:2) and repeats the list of the now eleven men in Acts 1:13. Acts 1:8 declares Jesus' specific purpose for these men. He says, "you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The job of the apostles was to testify as eye-witnesses that Jesus was who he claimed to be (see John 21:24 and Acts 8:25).

That this was the primary reason Jesus selected the apostles can be seen in the qualifications for the successor of Judas. We read this story in Acts 1:15-26. We learn from this that when it came to selecting a new apostle, some qualifi-



The Twelve Apostles...(cont.)



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cations had to be met. Peter states in Acts 1:21,22, "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." Notice first that Peter chose from among men that had accompanied them at all times during Jesus ministry. Second, they had to witness Jesus' life from the baptism of John until the day that Jesus ascended into heaven. Finally, the one who qualified would be appointed or ordained a witness of Jesus' resurrection. We read in Acts 1 that not just one, but two men qualified, Joseph and Matthias. However, the apostles only chose one of those two to fulfill the office of apostle. This information clearly demonstrates that even among those that qualified, not all were selected and

shows that the apostleship was a special office that could not be filled by just anyone. Significantly, after Matthias' appointment, we don't find any other examples of succession of apostles, though we do find at least one apostle being killed, James (Acts 12:2). After this point, the apostles, as a body of decision makers, begin to fade out and elders begin playing the permanent role of decision making in the church (see Acts 14:23, Acts 15:6, Acts 20:17, Acts 21:18). Why would this be if there were continual successions of apostles to lead and guide the church?

Next week we will look at the apostles special abilities, the special appointment of Paul as apostle, the meaning of Ephesians 4:11 and answer the question whether or not we need apostles today.

Kevin Cauley

An Old Farmer's Advice Part 2

- Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.



Bible Studies for the week of July 31st, 2005

AM Sermon.....	Why Blame God?
Scripture Reading.....	Job 10:1-7
PM Sermon.....	The Book of Job
Scripture Reading.....	NA
Sunday Class	The Book of Matthew
Wednesday Class.....	TBA

Kevin's Korner—Another Year, Another...(?)

Yesterday was my birthday. No brag, just fact. I think you stop bragging about you birthdays somewhere when you decide that another year simply means another pain somewhere in your body. My mother always asks me each year if I feel older. For the past several years, the reply has been, "Yes."

Seriously, I've had thirty-seven wonderful years living in God's earth and, Lord willing, I will experience more. But it's getting to the point where the years I have left are getting close to being fewer than the years I have been here, if I'm not already at that point. That's at least different if not sobering.

One of the interesting things that we did on vacation was visit Fort Clatsop, the wintering camp site of Lewis and Clark on the Pacific Ocean. This, of course, brought to mind their entire expedition during which the explorers kept

journals of their travels and thoughts. On the occasion of Meriwether Lewis' 31st birthday, his journal records that he felt as if he had lived for self up to this point in his life and that he needed to start living for the sake of others.

The brevity of life does indeed give us pause to consider what we have accomplished with what God has given us. And when we properly think about those few short years that are remaining, how can we think that we have done enough? The fact is that there is never enough that we can do. Jesus said, "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).

The Christian recognizes that there is work to be done but that he can never do enough. The question then becomes not, "How much

can I do," but "how can I do that which is right with what I have?" Because in the end, we won't be judged based upon how much I have accomplished in my life as much as how I lived each moment.

This brings to mind the question, "How are we using God's golden moments?" as expressed in our song, "Into Our Hands" by Tillit S. Teddlie. It is a good question for each of us to ask because when it boils down to it the only thing that is under our control is how we are using the present moment to the glory of God. The past is gone. The future has not yet arrived. The only thing we have is the present, which is a gift from God that each of us has the ability to use or lose.

I'm not the only one who's had a birthday this year. But I'm glad to have God's golden moments to reflect upon doing, in each moment, that which is right.



"I'm glad to have God's golden moments to reflect upon doing, in each moment, that which is right."

Records for the week of July 24th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	63
Sunday AM Worship.....	38
Sunday PM Worship.....	42
Wednesday Night Study.....	38
Contribution.....	\$1754.60
Budget.....	\$1662.00



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in prayer: Kathryn Davis, Cooper Doss, Debbie Duncan, Bryan Guess, Huggetta Hand, Maxine Havnick, Ruth Hill, Travis Jackson, Raymond Kimes, Jimmie Tucker, Billie Wylie.
- This afternoon at 2:00 there will be a singing at the nursing home. Please make your plans to come and sing with us!
- Since this is a fifth Sunday we will have a singing service this evening.
- There will be no Bible study at the nursing home this Thursday.
- The regular elders and deacons meeting is next Sunday night after services.
- Assignments for next month are: Announcements-Jerry Roller, Worship Coordinator-Bill Fort, Communion Prep-Pat Quigley and Callie Smith, Communion Carry-Rusty Windle and Kevin Cauley.
- Our pantry item is: Deodorant.

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	July 31st, 2005	August 7th, 2005
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Barrett Brown
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Barrett Brown	Rusty Windle
Scripture Reading:	Michael Morrell	Josh Doss
Lord's Table	Bob Phillips	Dan Hand
	John Gass	George Eddings
(assist)	Jerry Roller	John Gass
	Matt Morrell	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	Irvin Hand	Clay Bozarth
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Ken Smith
Scripture Reading:	Barrett Brown	Matthew Morrell
Lord's Table	Michael Morrell	Dale Pinkley
	Ray Duncan	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	Bob Phillips	Ray Duncan
Wednesday		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Rusty Windle
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	John Gass
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Ken Smith
Closing Prayer:	Brandon Foster	Bob Moore

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