

## AMBASSADORS OF/FOR CHRIST

Here is my understanding concerning the subject of this Greek word, 'apostolos', transliterated into the English word, "apostle". Let us set the stage for a better understanding of any 1st century word or words used today, especially when professed bible believers, have no better concept of how the word was used then and what it said to those people who used it in every day conversations. It had no special and or religious meaning and significance, as to a Position, a Title, an Office. Even though 'ambassador' was often used under the Old Covenant economy, it carried only the thinking of "one sent" on a mission just for the duration of that particular function or action to be later accomplished, and then, when that job was done, the 'apostolos' was no more an 'apostolos'! Well, along comes Jesus of Nazareth, to literally turn the world upside down, and He chose 12 pretty scurvy characters to help Him carry out His mission on earth after He would ascend back to His heavenly home. He picked a word they already knew and were familiar with, to be a special, called/chosen/ambassador/messenger one sent-out on an assignment from the "Commander-in-Chief", Jesus Christ! He hand picked just 12 apostles for the mission to carry the goodnews of the Kingdom of God to the then known world, which the scriptures say, that was accomplished. Judas, fell from favor with God, because he became a servant of Satan. Mathias was chosen, by drawing straws, but Gods' hand was in the selection process, and Mathias fulfilled the vacant spot in the mission work designed for "the Twelve" to do. The credentials and miraculous gifts were given to each man depending on his talents and abilities in order to fully equip them to represent the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. They were individually selected by Heaven and were equal to the task that they were chosen to perform. There will never be another number, more or less than the original 12 special ambassadors Christ chose for that particular function, since that mission was completed nearly 2000 years ago..... "And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." (Rev.21:14).

Of these TWELVE special, chosen, messengers of Christ, the number and name of these cannot be altered and/or deleted, none added to or subtracted from. There's no such bible teaching as Apostolic Succession! There were other noteworthy special messengers/delegates/apostles as to what they did for the assigned job they were chosen to perform. Paul, Titus, Epaphroditus and there may have been others that were referred to as "one sent" by Jesus/God for a task to accomplish, but to refer to those or even anyone today as an APOSTLE of the Lord, in a title act, or position of authority is to manipulate the sacred text.

There is no delegated authority today, from Jesus, to any man or group of men. Everyone who comes to Christ is on equal footing as far as rank and privileges are concerned. Yes, there are those that teach and those that preach, some are young and some are old, some are novices and some are journeymen, some are male and some are female. God didn't authorize all of this power-playing, called "battle of the churches". It never ceases to amaze me how we talk 'bible', but when it gets right down to what we want to do about it, we rely on recent history, regarding the practice and doctrines, whether biblical or not, as if we have arrived at ALL Truth and there isn't anymore to be dug out! Let us go back to the bible for all that we say and do religiously! Call bible things by bible names, and do bible things in bible ways! The majority of our problems would be solved if each and every one of us, started following the leader (Jesus) and quit following followers who think they are Gods' special Leaders!

*Yours for Truth and Freedom..... Horace Hooper....1988*