

Life Application notes.

Apostles - A Gift to the Church from Jesus.

10/05/20

John Groves

- 1) John started off by reminding us that the first apostles and the early church knew a lot about being isolated and unable to meet up with one another. Have a look at these passages: Romans 1 v 10-13; 2 Corinthians 1 v 15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2 v 17-18. (All about Paul having his plans to visit other churches frustrated.)
1 Peter 1 v 1; Revelation 1 v 9. (Persecution has scattered & isolated Christians. The apostles Peter & John cannot visit the churches they look after.)
2 Timothy 4 v 9-11; v 16. (Paul is in prison - he clearly feels very lonely.)
What lessons can we learn from these NT situations?
- 2) Read Ephesians 4 v 11-13.
Who gives the Church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors & teachers?
Why are these gifts given to the Church?
Why does v 13 indicate that all the Ephesians 4 gifts are still needed?
- 3) 'Apostle' means 'sent one.'
There seem to be 3 types of 'apostle' in the NT:
Jesus - the Great Apostle of the faith (Hebrews 3 v 1). Sent by the Father.
The 12 Apostles of the Lamb. (Revelation 21 v 14). 12 men chosen by Jesus - precise qualifications (Acts 1 v 21-22). Sent by the Son.
Numerous apostles to the churches. Sent by the Spirit. (Eph. 4 v 11; 1 Cor. 12 v 28.)
Paul, Barnabas, Silas, James (brother of our Lord) all called 'apostles.' Even some quite minor figures called 'sent ones' (2 Cor. 8 v 16-24). These apostles all work in teams - some sent as delegates of apostles e.g. Timothy & Titus.
This last category of apostles seem to be an on-going gift to the church through the ages.
Do you see the value of this last category of apostles? Talk about who might have had this gift in church history. Discuss the need for this gift.
Do you recognise this gift operating today?
- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 10 v 1-5; v 13-16; 11 v 11; v 28-29; 12 v 19.
What do these verses teach us about the practical, down-to-earth reality of an apostle's relationship with one of the churches he serves?
Talk about Life Church's relationship with Guy Miller and his apostolic team, including John Groves.
Finish by praying for Guy Miller, John Groves, Chris Kilby.