

# AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

By Keith Greer

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." {2 Corinthians 5:20}

What is an ambassador? "**An authorized messenger or representative**". (American Heritage Dictionary) We can clearly see how the apostles were "authorized messengers" of Christ. Listen to the words of the scriptures.

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature'." {Mark 16:15}

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. " (John 16:13)

"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20)

"If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." {1 Corinthians 14:37}

"But I make known to you, brethren that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ." {Galatians 1:11,12}

"But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel'." {Acts 9: 15}

The apostles fulfilled their missions. According to Paul the gospel went out into the whole world.

"But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: 'their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world'." {Romans 10:18}

" ... If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. "{Colossians 1:23}

**Do we have any ambassadors today?** Are there any "**authorized messengers**" of Christ today? Some believe that the apostles were the last ones. Others believe there is a "handing down" of the apostleship to each generation. Who is right?

"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." {1 Peter 4:11}

"As I urged you when I went into Macedonia; remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine," {1 Timothy 1:3}

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." {1 Peter 3:15}

What name do you wear? If you were bought with the blood of Christ and baptized into His death, then you are a Christian. Romans 6: 3,4; Galatians 3: 27; 1 Corinthians 6:20.

If the Christians of the world do not "sound out" the good news, who will? Christians are the only ones who have the right, privilege, and honor of being the bearer of God's message to the lost world today. No, we are not ambassadors in the sense that the apostles were! We too are neither "witnesses" to any of the events one reads in the Scriptures. People today call themselves "witnesses." How – what did they personally witness? The cross, the resurrected Lord, or any other Biblical events is accepted by FAITH – our belief in the witnesses' testimony! Let us spread the message of Christ! \*\*\*