

## **20160313 Discover part 10: Apostle & Evangelist**

Text: Titus 1:1-4 I, Paul, am God's slave and Christ's apostle for promoting the faith among God's chosen people, getting out the accurate word on God and how to respond rightly to it. My aim is to raise hopes by pointing the way to life without end. This is the life God promised long ago—and he doesn't break promises! And then when the time was ripe, he went public with his truth. I've been entrusted to proclaim this Message by order of our Savior, God himself. Dear Titus, legitimate son in the faith: Receive everything God our Father and Jesus our Savior give you.

This is just Paul's word of greeting, but in it we see three things: First of all in v.1, the title of the apostle/messenger. Then, in verses one to three, we see the service, or the ministry goal of the apostle; and then, thirdly, you see the blessing of the apostle, in verse four.

Paul wants to exhort and encourage these Christians. They were tempted to live with one foot in the world and another foot in the church, tempted to be conformed to the thinking and the living standards and the behavior of the world, rather than to be transformed by the renewing of their minds according to the word of God.

So before Paul has even finished identifying himself, he is already providing an example to these Christians of what being a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ does.

### **I. What is an apostolic messenger like?**

Paul speaks of himself here not only as a servant of the Lord—but he speaks of himself as an apostle, one who was officially invested with special powers by Jesus Christ and sent by Jesus Christ. He speaks of himself, then, as a special, divine messenger. And look at the nature of this apostolic messenger as we see from his title: he is “Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ.”

In the Old Testament there were two types of slaves in Israel. There were temporary slaves. After a set period of time, servants were to be set free.

And yet, in the Old Testament there was a provision for a slave who permanently committed himself to his master. He was called a bond-servant. By his own initiation this servant could say to his master, “I want to serve you always.” And Paul begins this letter by saying “I am a bond-servant of God.” In other words, he is saying he is willingly self-committed to permanent service of the Lord.

He did not call himself to the ministry. He was sent by Christ into the ministry. He was changed, he was converted, he was humbled, and he was called into the service of the Lord. It comes right out of his own experience of God's grace to him, and because he had been called into this service—this glad service, a service that he continually tells us that he didn't deserve—he also tells us that he was willingly committed to that service.

Paul's description of his position serves as an encouragement and challenge to us to commitment and to mission.

Paul very clearly had a sense of mission. He knows what he's here for. He knows what his purpose is in life, and he not only knows his mission and his purpose, he is gladly, willingly, wholeheartedly, and permanently committed to it.

One thing that was going on amongst those Paul wrote to was that they are forgetting who they are and what they're here for. They have forgotten their mission and purpose in life.

We are forgetting what God called us to, what He made us for, what our purpose is in life. Our purpose is to glorify and enjoy God forever.

Paul commits his whole life to the Lord Jesus Christ, to serve Him. And he serves with that sense of purpose and a commitment to that sense of purpose that is born of his realization of God's grace to him.

II. What does the service of the apostolic messenger look like?

Again in verses 1-3, here we see Paul state very compactly his goal in ministry. He's telling Titus what he's trying to do in ministry: 'When I go out as a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, this is what I'm shooting for. This is what my preaching and teaching is aimed at.'

"...to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness— 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, 3 and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior"

Paul's primary purpose in ministry is to teach and to preach and disciple so that the chosen of God will exercise faith. That's the first goal of his ministry and service.

Secondly, Paul is saying, "My ministry is aimed at producing a sanctifying knowledge in the people of God." I don't simply want them to have more information than other people. I don't simply want them to be smarter than other people. I'm not interested in them knowing certain facts that other people don't know. The point is I want to teach them a truth that transforms their lives.

Thirdly, Paul says 'My goal in ministry is with a view to the faith of God's people and the sanctifying knowledge of the truth in light of the hope of eternal life.' You see this in verse 2. The motivation for Paul's labor, the motivation for their living of the Christian life, is this hope of eternal life.

### **The Office of the Evangelist**

Ephesians 4:11-16 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every

respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The ministry of the evangelist is one of the ministries God gave to men so that Christians may come to spiritual maturity.

Evangelists are given to help train and equip God's people and to bring them to maturity. They are to prepare the saints for works of ministry and to teach them how to build up the body of Christ.

What's an evangelist like?

The word "evangelist" comes from the Greek word "euangelion" which means "a messenger of good news or gospel". It is applied to someone who is able to communicate the message of the Gospel in such a way that many people will listen and be moved to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

It is the special ability God gives to some to proclaim the Gospel of salvation effectively so that people respond to the gospel message.

I. What's the ministry of an evangelist look like?

The ministry of the evangelist is only given to certain individuals who God anoints with supernatural enablement to minister.

A person cannot simply study to be an evangelist and no one can teach someone to be an evangelist. You cannot choose to be an evangelist. The evangelists of God are not trained in the religious schools of man, nor are they raised up from among the leadership of the organized church.

Evangelism is one of the easiest gifts to spot because people with this gift are focused on people being saved. Signs are evident when they preach the gospel.

When an evangelist preaches, they nearly always end with an invitation to receive Christ.

Acts 8:5-13 - Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city. But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

Paul preached the gospel wherever he went. That was his primary purpose and passion. He taught that it is not sufficient to hear the message because he believed there had to be personal repentance and faith that leads to salvation.

He was convinced that people everywhere needed to hear the gospel and boldly declared the life-changing message.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

### III. Characteristics of an evangelist

Evangelists preach the Word of God and encourage and communicate the message of Christ with clarity and conviction.

Evangelists move with great boldness and there is power and authority in their words. They are fearless when proclaiming the good news of salvation. This does not necessarily mean that they have a naturally bold personality, but when they are stirred by the Holy Spirit to speak God's truth to the lost, they become bold.

Evangelists can communicate the plan of salvation with clarity and conviction. They always have creative ways to present their message based on the age or life style of their audience.

They challenge people to have faith in Jesus Christ everywhere they go.

Without the ministry of apostles, evangelists and prophets the revelation of the blueprint necessary for the building is incomplete.

When we look at the current state of the church, it is clear that it needs to make significant foundational shifts and changes. It is evident that the ministry gifts of the pastors, apostles, evangelists, prophets, and teachers need to be active in the church today. The bride of Christ can only prepare for the Bridegroom once all of these anointing are fully active.