

## It's Not Common Core Math – Eleven + One = Twelve

Who is your Apostle? The question isn't who is your favorite Apostle, but who is your appointed Apostle? Did you even know that God had appointed you an Apostle?

Though not knowing how heavily promoted it is today that Paul, & not Matthias, was God's actual choice as the twelfth Apostle in replacing Judas, it was once commonly taught. Around 10 years ago I engaged in this debate with a saint, well versed in the scriptures, who was dogmatic that the eleven remaining Apostles made a mistake in casting lots to select Judas' replacement. It took only a few email exchanges for him to switch his position. I don't typically enter into a discussion to prove someone wrong, but to prove the scriptures right.

Paul is very clear in stating... "ALL SCRIPTURE *is* given by inspiration of God, and *IS* PROFITABLE for DOCTRINE, for REPROOF, for CORRECTION, for INSTRUCTION in RIGHTEOUSNESS." **2 Timothy 3:16**. However, it is also Paul that states... "STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**

Obviously, certain biblical principles run across the entire spectrum of dispensations, but unless unfamiliar with the entire Bible, one cannot help but notice that certain people or people groups are addressed with particular instructions. For example, you have never been instructed to build an Ark and one would never have acquired the taste for bacon under the Mosaic Covenant. James addressed the 12 tribes of Israel (**James 1:1**), Peter strangers scattered abroad (**1Pet 1:1**) and Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians familiar with the Acts period (**Hebrews 6:1-6**). Ephesians was written to converted non-covenanted Gentiles that once fell under the classification of heathen (**Rom 1:18-32; Eph 2:11**).

In this post I'm going to rightly divide Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, from the Twelve Apostles. In doing so, I'm going to focus mainly on the Twelve. The Lord Jesus set out to accomplish several things in His earthly ministry as the selection of the Twelve was ONE of those accomplishments.

Pay close attention to excerpts from what truly is the Lord's prayer.

**John 17:4-8** I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. **5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. **6** I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. **7** Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. **8** For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

...I have FINISHED THE WORK which thou gavest me to do

...I have manifested thy name unto the MEN which THOU GAVEST ME out of the world

...Thine THEY WERE, and thou gavest THEM me; and THEY have kept THY WORD

...Now THEY have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee

...For I have given unto THEM the WORDS which THOU GAVEST ME

...And THEY HAVE RECEIVED THEM

**John 17:17-20** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. **18** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they

also might be sanctified through the truth. **20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

...Sanctify THEM through THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH

...As thou hast sent me into the world

...even so have I also SENT THEM into the world

...Neither pray I for THESE alone

...but for THEM ALSO which shall believe on me

...through THEIR WORD

The finished work referenced above must not be confused with the finished work uttered ... “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished:...” **John 19:30**

The finished mission was the entrusting of words given Jesus, by the Father, to the men delegated to the Lord Jesus during His earthly ministry, to be carried on afterwards.

Now on to the selection of the Twelfth Apostle; Judas’ replacement.

**Acts 1:15-26** And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) 16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. 17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. 18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. 19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. 20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. 21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 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. 23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

...Let his habitation be desolate... his bishoprick let another take

...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

...And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas... and Matthias

...And they prayed, and said, Thou, LORD, which knowest the hearts of all men

...shew whether of these two THOU HAST CHOSEN

...That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship

...And they gave forth their lots

...The lot fell upon MATTHIAS

...HE was NUMBERED with the ELEVEN APOSTLES

Besides the fact that prayer and proper procedure was behind this selection, Paul was disqualified because he wasn't ministering between the designated times ascribed nor witness to the resurrection of Christ. The decision was placed in the hands of the Lord, between the two that did qualify, and lot fell upon Matthias who was numbered with the eleven. Eleven plus one equals twelve ( $11 + 1 = 12$ ). This is proved out elsewhere.

**Acts 2:14** But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

...But Peter, standing up WITH THE ELEVEN

**Acts 6:2** Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

...THE TWELVE called the multitude

**1 Corinthians 15:4-8** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

...After that, he was seen of James

...then of ALL THE APOSTLES

...And LAST of all he was seen OF ME ALSO, as of one BORN OUT OF DUE TIME

Why is this a HUGE & SIGNIFICANT BIG deal? Why is it essential to recognize distinctions between the Twelve & Paul's apostleship's? Let's focus in on the 'words' & commissions given to the Apostles BEFORE the conversion of Paul in Acts 9.

The Beatitudes (Sermon on the Mount; Matt 5-8) & commandments of Christ (**Joh 14:21-24; Joh 8:42; Joh 15:10-14; Joh 21:15-17; 1Jo 2:3-5; 1Jo 4:19-20; 1Jo 5:2-3; Re 12:17; Re 14:12; Re 22:14**) PRECEDED Paul! Regarding the conversion of the three thousand in Acts 2, it is stated... "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." **Acts 2:42**

...they continued stedfastly in the APOSTLES' DOCTRINE

The two recorded 'Preach' (**Mk 16:15-20**) & 'Teaching' (**Matt 28:16-20**) commissions also PRECEDED Paul! The Apostles were promised that... "...Verily I say unto YOU, That YE which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, YE also shall sit upon TWELVE THRONES, judging the TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL." **Matthew 19:28** Are we to believe that the appointed office of the Gentiles (**Rom 11:13**) will one day sit on one of the thrones judging Israel? I think not!

Has the reader ever sincerely asked the question... Why Paul at all? Peter offered Israel the kingdom upon her repentance (Acts 3:19-20) BEFORE Paul's conversion (Acts 9). Even if you eliminate Paul's epistles, the Jew still had enough revelation regarding prophecy & her Messiah for salvation (**Acts 2:29-40**)! What a HUGE mistake in making Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, simply an extension of the

'words' & commissions given to & understood by the Twelve... "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church." **1 Corinthians 4:17**

...of MY WAYS which be IN CHRIST, as I TEACH every where in EVERY CHURCH

We must rightly divide the word of God in rightly dividing Paul FROM the Twelve!

**Galatians 1:11-12** But I certify you, brethren, that THE GOSPEL which was preached OF ME is NOT AFTER MAN. **12** For I NEITHER RECEIVED IT OF MAN, NEITHER WAS I TAUGHT *IT*, but by the REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

**Romans 16:25-26** Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to MY GOSPEL, and the PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST, according to the REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY, which WAS KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, **26** But NOW is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to ALL NATIONS for the obedience OF FAITH:

**Ephesians 3:1-9** For this cause I PAUL, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for YOU GENTILES, **2** If ye have heard of the DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD WHICH IS GIVEN ME TO YOU-WARD: **3** How that by REVELATION HE MADE KNOWN UNTO ME THE MYSTERY; (as I wrote afore in few words, **4** Whereby, when YE read, YE may understand MY KNOWLEDGE IN THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST) **5** Which in other ages WAS NOT MADE KNOWN UNTO THE SONS OF MEN, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **6** That THE GENTILES SHOULD BE FELLOWHEIRS, and of the SAME BODY, and PARTAKERS OF HIS PROMISE IN CHRIST by THE GOSPEL: **7** WHEREOF I WAS MADE A MINISTER, according to the gift of the GRACE OF GOD GIVEN UNTO ME by the effectual working of his power. **8** UNTO ME, who am less than the least of all saints, is THIS GRACE GIVEN, that I SHOULD PREACH AMONG THE GENTILES THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST; **9** And to make all *men* see what *is* the FELLOWSHIP OF THE MYSTERY, which FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD hath been HID IN GOD, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

...THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST (Not prophesied!)

...hath been HID IN GOD (Not hid in the scriptures!)

Now... who is your Apostle? Paul is also my favorite 😊