03 • Ambassadors for Christ

In 2 Corinthians 5:19-20, notice how Paul summarizes the mission of the apostles:

...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and

entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Who were these apostles? They were ambassadors for Christ, What does that mean? Consider...

...the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may **declare** it boldly, as I ought to speak. (Eph 6:19-20)

...for he is the **messenger** of the LORD of hosts. (Mal 2:7)

...you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. (Gal 4:14)

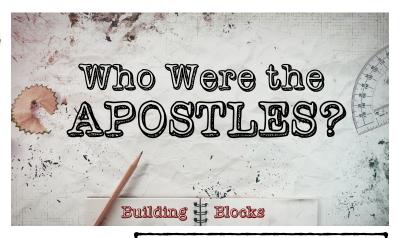
An ambassador is a representative with a message who ought to be received "as" the one who sent him (2 Cor 6:1).

- Jesus himself had promised that his apostles would be guided in a unique way by the Holy Spirit (John 14:25-26; 16:12-14).
- # The apostles' responsibility as ambassadors was to declare the whole counsel of God (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 20:27).



What we're blessed with as a result is the gospel, preserved in written form:

For I **delivered** to you as of first importance what I also received... (1 Cor 15:3)



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Going back to 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 for a moment...
 - · What does it mean to be "entrusted" with a message?
 - In your own words, how would anyone be able to "implore" someone "on behalf of Christ"?
- Let's use 2 Peter 1:1-4 as a case study:
 - What was Peter's responsibility as an "apostle of Jesus Christ"?
 - How did he fulfill that responsibility?
 - What blessing is available to all of us as a result of Peter's work?
- But what if someone decided they didn't want to listen to the apostles? Was that a big deal? What can we learn from...
 - 1 Corinthians 14:36-38?
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13?
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8?
 - Luke 10:16?

