

Can you find the book of [2 Corinthians](#) in your Bible? As we read [2 Corinthians 5:19-20](#), listen carefully to how Paul summarizes the mission of Jesus' apostles:

...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and \_\_\_\_\_ to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal \_\_\_\_\_ us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

**Who WERE these apostles?** There are lots of ways to answer that question, but here's one: the apostles were **ambassadors** for Jesus Christ. Well, what does that **mean**? Here are a few verses that can really help us understand:

...the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may \_\_\_\_\_ it boldly, as I ought to speak. ([Ephesians 6:19-20](#))

...for he is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD of hosts. ([Malachi 2:7](#))

...you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus. ([Galatians 4:14](#))

An **ambassador** is someone who comes with a message; someone who ought to be received "as" the one who sent him or her.

- ☀ 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 ([Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Acts 20:27](#)).

What we're blessed with as a result of their work is the gospel:

For I \_\_\_\_\_ to you as of first importance what I also \_\_\_\_\_... ([1 Corinthians 15:3](#))



# FOUNDATION STONES

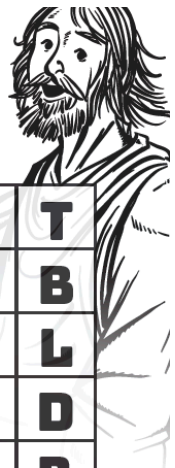
But what if someone decided they didn't want to listen to the apostles? Would that be a big deal? Let's open our Bibles back to

**1 Thessalonians 2** and read **verses 9** through **13** together. What can we

learn from the way Paul describes the apostles, their mission, and the amazing Bible we hold in our hands today?



Discover the hidden words.



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