

PURPOSES OF THE APOSTLES EPH. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11

We now know:

- Who were apostles
- And who were not
- We **also** know their qualifications

But what's their purpose(s)? (These are not 3 separate & differing purposes but 3 intertwined / interwoven purposes.

1. Evangelizing the world!

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. **Luke 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **Luke 24:46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **Luke 24:47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **Luke 24:48** And ye are witnesses of these things.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: **and ye shall be witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:22 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**.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, **whereof we all are witnesses**.

Acts 3:15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; **whereof we are witnesses**.

Acts 5:32 **And we are his witnesses of these things**; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 10:39 **And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: **Acts 10:41** Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.**

Acts 13:30 But God raised him from the dead: **Acts 13:31** And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, **who are his witnesses unto the people**.

Acts 22:15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. **Acts 22:17** And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance; **Acts 22:18** And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me. **Acts 22:19** And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: **Acts 22:20** And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him. **Acts 22:21** And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister **and a witness** both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

The Church, churches, & all Christians are all commanded to evangelize → to preach the gospel!

The apostles had a unique role:

- Eye-witness of the crucifixion & resurrection/resurrected Christ
- An eyewitness to what they saw & heard
- An eye-witness to what happened & what “what happened” means !!!

1 John 1:1 THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; **1 John 1:2** (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) **1 John 1:3** That which we have seen and

heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

➤ **Official witnesses of all they saw & heard**

2. Establishing the Church...& churches!

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Ephesians 3:5 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;

Revelation 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of **the twelve apostles of the Lamb**.

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 1 Corinthians 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

Acts 1:1 THE former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Thoughts:

➤ **The Church began at Pentecost**

➤ **The Church began because of Christ**

➤ **The Church began after the finished work of Christ on the cross**

The death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ

The giving of the gifts to the church

The forming of the body of Christ

The sending of the Holy Spirit

The heading up of the body of Christ

➤ **The Church is built on the foundation of the Apostles**

Not so much their personalities / as men but as apostles representing Christ and what they wrote eventually!

3. Writing & completing the Canon | Scripture!

Ephesians 3:5 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;

Acts 1:1 THE former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly **in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Acts 10:41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

2 Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: **2 Peter 3:2** That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. **2 Peter 3:15** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; **2 Peter 3:16** As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. **2 Peter 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. **2 Peter 3:18** But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Jude 17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before **of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

Thoughts about books & Christianity:

➤ **The Church began with a canon → books**

!!!

39 books condensed into 24 or 22

➤ **The Canon was variously summarized as:**

A. The Law and the Prophets

B. The Law (תּוֹרָה), prophets (נְבִיאִים) & the writings (כְּתוּבִים)

Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: **Luke 24:26** Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? **Luke 24:27** And beginning at **Moses and all the prophets**, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in **the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.** **Luke 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **Luke 24:46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **Luke 24:47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **Luke 24:48** And ye are witnesses of these things.

John 5:39 Search **the scriptures (τὰς γραφάς);** for in them ye think ye have eternal life: **and they are they which testify of me.** **2 Timothy 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known **the holy scriptures (τὰ ἱερὰ γράμματα),** which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **2 Timothy 3:16** All **scripture (Πᾶσα γραφή)** is given by inspiration of God (θεόπνευστος), and is profitable (ὠφέλιμος) for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

➤ **The Canon (OT) was about Christ**

➤ **Christ confirmed the OT Canon!**

➤ **Christ also established the NT Canon!**

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **John 14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:25 **These things** have I spoken unto you, **being yet present with you.**

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me: John 15:27** And ye **also** shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:12 I have **yet** many things to say unto you, **but** ye cannot bear them now.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for** he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: **and he will shew you things to come. John 16:14** **He shall glorify me:** for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Though often, and maybe usually, read as verses about personal illumination...these texts refer primarily to the Apostles and the teaching & writing of Scripture

A. Historical books (and **bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you)**

Texts: Gospels, Acts

Examples:

B. Instructional books (he shall **teach you all things, he will **guide you into all truth**)**

Texts: Epistles

Examples:

C. Prophetical books (he will shew you things to come**)**

Texts: Revelation/ Mt 24/ 1 Thess/ II Peter

Examples:

D. All Christological!!! (whatsoever I have said unto you, **he shall testify of me, **He shall glorify me**)**

Texts:

Examples:

➤ **The Church received a Canon / the Scripture**

➤ **The Church received this Canon from the Holy Spirit through the Apostles & their associates**

Acts 1:1 THE **former** treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of **all** that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, **after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:** **Acts 1:3** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly **in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Ephesians 3:5 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;

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for (τῇ ἀπαξ παραδοθείσῃ τοῖς ἁγίοις πίστει) **the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**