

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, chapter 1, verses 1 through 6.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ

Apostles Paul (seated) and Peter



Today's Lesson: Paul the Apostle

We focus today on Paul as one of the apostles. Points to review with your child:

1. *What is an Apostle?*

The word "apostle" comes from Greek and means "one who is sent forth" with an important message. In the bible, "apostle" refers to a person who had received a personal command from Jesus to be his messenger in the world.

2. *Who were the Apostles?*

Most commonly, "Apostles" refers to the 11 faithful disciples who had been with Jesus during his ministry, plus Matthias (who replaced Judas), and Paul. Paul is different than all the others because he became a follower of Jesus after Jesus died and rose from the dead.

3. *How did Paul become an Apostle?*

Paul, whose name was originally Saul, was a devout Jew who once persecuted Jesus' followers. One day, after Jesus had ascended into heaven, Jesus struck Saul with a blinding light and asked him why did he persecute Jesus' followers. Saul's sight was restored, he was baptized and changed his name to Paul. Paul believed that he had met the Lord on the road to Damascus, and Jesus had directed him to preach the Gospel to the non-Jewish people around the Mediterranean Sea. He believed his authority as a preacher came directly through Jesus Christ and God the Father.

4. *What did Paul do as an Apostle?*

Paul travelled extensively around the Mediterranean. He built up and supported Christian communities everywhere he went. He wrote letters to the faithful people he met during his travels. These letters are the oldest part of the New Testament. His writings help Christians today understand who Jesus is and what it means to be a Christian. The reading today was from one of Paul's letters in which he describes himself as "a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God ...to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles (non-Jewish people)." Paul suffered imprisonment and death by the Romans because of his faith in Jesus.

Read more in this week's edition of *THE COVENANT TIMES*

Unit IV, Issue 3

<https://vts.myschoolapp.com/ftpimages/95/download/INTShell%20Covenant%20Times-Unit%20IV.pdf>

The Apostles

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SIMON
ANDREW
THOMAS
JAMES
MATTHIAS
MATTHEW
BARTHOLOMEW
THADDEUS
PETER
PHILIP
JOHN
PAUL

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