

THE APOSTLE DEFINED (Ephesians 4:8,11-13; I Corinthians 12:28)

The five-fold ministry gifts are given to the Church for three reasons (Ephesians 4:12):

- (1) For the perfecting of the saints
- (2) For the work of the ministry
- (3) For the edifying of the Body of Christ

Apostle, in the Greek, means: a messenger; a sent one; or a commissioned one.

There are Apostles today.

The chief Apostle being Jesus. Hebrews 3:1 says, “. . . consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.” No one else will ever stand in the highest class of the ministry gifts, because Jesus is in a class by Himself. Jesus had the Spirit without measure (John 3:34).

The Apostles of today do not have the same office of Apostle as the Apostles that were given the Scriptures they wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. However, this office of Apostle is set in the Church by Jesus, and has not diminished in power and effectiveness. Many people around the world are standing in this office with the calling and powerful anointing of the Apostle. It is still also important for the five-fold ministry to operate in the Church. The characteristics of the Apostolic call today, as was in the New Testament, are *signs, wonders, and mighty deeds* (II Corinthians 12:12). There must be a very deep and personal relation-

ship and experience with the Lord which is out of the ordinary.

* This writer would like to suggest for further study on the Apostle: 'He Gave Gifts Unto Men', by Kenneth Hagin.