

## **How do we know that Paul was an apostle?**

### **Did Jesus directly appoint or call Paul an apostle?**

To put all of this together, I believe Scripture points to Paul as an apostle. The evidence comes from his Damascus road experience in Acts 9 plus the witness of other apostles, Paul's own testimony as an apostle, and the presence of miracles in Paul's ministry.

The Lord Jesus did call Paul a minister and a witness to the Gospel in Acts 9:3-5,15. Acts 9:3-5 is a record of the direct word of Jesus to Saul, and Acts 9:15 is the word of the Lord delivered through Ananias to Paul.

In Acts 22:15, Luke records Paul's word that Christ called him a witness to the Gospel message.

Acts 26:16-18 states that Paul is called to be a minister and witness of Christ by the Lord Himself.

The witness of the other apostles that Paul is an apostle: In 2 Peter 3:16, Peter calls Paul's writings Scripture. Placing that alongside the other references below, how can one not credibly call Paul's writings Scripture and the word of God when Paul is calling himself an apostle in these very writings? Therefore, it can be understood that Peter considered Paul an apostle.

Galatians 2:7-9 shows Paul being recognized by the other apostles in Jerusalem as an apostle to the Gentiles while Peter was an apostle to the circumcised.

Paul calls himself an apostle of Jesus Christ in Romans 1:1, 1 Corinthians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 9:1; 1 Corinthians 15:9; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1; and Titus 1:1.

The other apostles also entrusted Paul and his companions to deliver the message of the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15:22,23 showing that Paul was a trusted leader in the church.

There were also reports of signs and wonders accompanying Paul's ministry. The presence of miracles along with a faithful proclamation of the Gospel were viewed as verification of one's apostolic calling- Acts 15:12; Romans 15:18,19; 2 Corinthians 12:11,12.

Herein lies the basis for one's acceptance or rejection of Paul's apostleship: did the other apostles and other early Christians accurately recognize Paul's apostleship?

I think this is a starting point in thinking through the evidence for Paul being an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God attested to in Holy Scripture and the other apostles. If you have any further comments or questions, let me know.

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