

Text: Mt 10.1-4, et al

You will recall from last week I am starting a series on Orthodoxy.

Briefly, we are challenging a notion put forward by Walter Bauer (about 90 years ago) and Bart Ehrman (more recently) that what we call orthodox Christian teaching is merely the position that won out over competing views in the early years of the church.

We won't attempt to refute their views so much as to promote the foundations of Orthodoxy.

That is, we are going to look to the Scriptures themselves to show how Orthodoxy is the original position of Christianity, based on the authority of the New Testament and the apostles who produced it, and that other ideas were deviations from the norm, and thus defective.

Today our subject is

The Witnesses

The church gathered around the teaching of the Witnesses. The Lord Jesus trained them for this task and gave them the authority to carry it out. Their work is reliable, and we rest on it today.

We also call these men *apostles*.

I'm going to read several passages as we go through the message, but our first is Mt 10.-4 if you want to turn there.

Proposition: Orthodoxy centers around the teaching of the apostles which they received from Jesus.

I. The role of the apostles according to Jesus

- Read Mt 10.1-4
- Read Mk 3.13-16
- Read Mk 6.7
- Read Lk 6.13
- Read Lk 9.1-2

A. Named "apostles" — "sent ones"

B. Authority over unclean spirits and diseases (signs of an apostle)

C. Intended that they be with him (for training)

D. Intended that they go out and preach (what he told them)

E. The Great Commission

- Mt 28.18-20
- Mk 16.15
- Jn 20.21-22
- Acts 1.8

II. The message of the apostles according to Jesus (Lk 24.44-49)

A. The resurrection fulfilled the words he spoke to them (44)

B. The crucifixion and resurrection fulfilled the Old Testament (45-46)

C. The message of repentance and forgiveness of sins was to go to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (47)

“You are witnesses” (48)

D. The Holy Spirit would come [to empower them and instruct them] (49)

III. The consistency of the apostles in accord with Jesus

A. In selecting Mathias (Ac 1.21-22)

B. In preaching the gospel (Ac 2.37-39)

C. The church grew in accordance with apostolic teaching (Ac 2.42)

Conclusion:

Proposition: Orthodoxy centers around the teaching of the apostles which they received from Jesus.