

Right Division Soundbites # 16

12 Apostles Called by Lord on Earth / Paul Called by ascended Lord

Years ago a list of contrasts, prepared by a 'mid-Acts' dean, was made available for distribution. It was titled 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth', and suggested as soundbites to create teaching situations. There were 26 separate issues listed. We plan to deal with one topic on Sunday mornings.

For your information, the titles and verses (listed directly below in the box) are exactly as they appear on the dean's chart.

16. The 12 Apostles called by Lord while He was on the earth Matt 10:1-4	Paul called to be an apostle from ascended Lord Acts 9:1ff, 1 Cor 15:8-10
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The left side of the dean's chart has just one reference:

Matt 10:1-4 And when he (Jesus) had called unto him his twelve **disciples**, he gave them **power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.**

2 Now the names of the twelve **apostles** are these;

- The first, Simon, who is called Peter,
- and Andrew his brother;
 - James the son of Zebedee,
 - and John his brother;

- 3
- Philip,
 - and Bartholomew;
 - Thomas,
 - and Matthew the publican;
 - James the son of Alphaeus,
 - and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

- 4
- Simon the Canaanite,
 - and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Jesus called the men unto Himself as 'disciples' 'learners' or 'pupils'.

He commissioned them as 'apostles' 'messengers', 'delegates'

'sent forth with orders' as 'teachers'.

The right side of the dean's chart references Acts 9:1 and following ... where Saul (who later became Paul, Acts 13:9) was called by Jesus after He had ascended. Saul was on the hunt for believers in Jesus ... those who were **'in Christ' before him** (Rom 16:7). He had warrants for their arrest:

Acts 9:1-2 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,
2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Saul was blinded (literally) by a bright light from heaven that brought him down to the ground. Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting Him:

Acts 9:3-5 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:
4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, **why persecutest thou me?**
5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:** it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

How was Saul persecuting Jesus? Jesus had 'ascended' and gone into heaven, yet He questioned Saul why he was persecuting Him. How could he have been persecuting Him? Jesus, while He was 'on the earth' (as 'mid-Acts-ers' 'distinctly classify' Him) taught the answer to that question in principle, as He prophesied about the future time when He (the 'ascended Lord' as 'mid-Acts-ers' 'distinctly re-classify' Him) will come back 'to the earth' to judge. Do you see the outrageous DIVISION of Christ they make?

- They have Jesus categorized as 'on the earth'.
- Then they call Him the 'ascended Lord'
- When He returns to earth, Who will He be? the 'ascended Lord on earth'?

Jesus taught the 'right division'

He will DIVIDE His sheep (believers) from the goats (unbelievers):

Matt 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations:

and **he shall separate them one from another,**

as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Here is the answer to the question about how Saul was persecuting Jesus:

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you,

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Here the same principle of the answer is repeated:

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.**

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Saul was NOT persecuting Jesus DIRECTLY he was persecuting the 'brethren' of the Lord those who professed to believe in Jesus!

When Jesus was 'on the earth' He said who 'His brethren' were:

Matt 12:48-50 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and **who are my brethren?**

49 And **he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold** my mother and **my brethren!**

50 For **whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother,** and sister, and mother.

After the women saw the empty tomb, and the angel told them to take the good news of Jesus' resurrection to His disciples Jesus met them on the way and identified 'His brethren' as being His disciples:

Matt 28:10 Then **said Jesus** unto them, Be not afraid: go tell **my brethren** that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Also in Paul's writings, we see that 'Jesus' brethren' are believers:

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of **his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

When the 'brethren' are wounded or persecuted so is 'Christ':

1 Cor 8:12 But when **ye sin so against the brethren,** and wound their weak conscience, **ye sin against Christ.**

His 'brethren' are the sanctified, the church - being ONE 'with' and 'in' Him:

Heb 2:11-12 For both **he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,**

12 **Saying,** (quoting from Psa 22:22) **I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church** will I sing praise unto thee.

Jesus' brethren are those who have His testimony (regardless who said it):

Rev 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of **thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus:** worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

The dean's focus is to make a division between the Lord 'while He was on the earth' and the 'ascended Lord'.

Yet, clearly, the angels specifically told Jesus' apostles that **the SAME Jesus** who ascended up to heaven will come back down from heaven.

So why do 'mid-Acts-ers' want to dissect Him? They have a paradigm of division, in which they follow the Cunning Royal Jester, the Master 'AXE-r':

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come** in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

When PETER preached about the 'ascended Lord' he also claimed **'this Jesus' was 'that SAME Jesus':**

Acts 2:30-36 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would **raise up Christ** (the 'ascended Lord') to sit on his throne;
31 He seeing this before spake of the **resurrection of Christ**, (the 'ascended Lord') that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 **This Jesus hath God raised up**, (the 'ascended Lord') whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore **being by the right hand of God exalted**, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For David is not **ascended into the heavens**: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made **that same Jesus**, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Because Jesus changed **locations** it did not make Him into **another Jesus**:

Heb 13:8 **Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**

'Mid-Acts-ers', including the dean whose chart we are proving wrong, teach that 'another Jesus' in this next verse is 'Jesus while He was on the earth':

2 Cor 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Yet, 'Jesus while He was on the earth' warned about FALSE CHRISTS.

Oh 'mid-Acts-ers', could He have been warning about Himself, after He would 'change' into 'another Jesus', as the 'ascended Lord Jesus'? It looks to me like the 'mid-Acts-ers' are the ones who are deceived claiming 'Jesus while on the earth' is 'another Jesus':

Matt 24:24 For there shall arise **false Christs**, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

John also warned of MANY ANTICHRISTS:

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are **there many antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Go back to Acts 9 at the salvation of Paul, where 'mid-Acts-ers' say the 'body of Christ' started and the dispensation of grace began. Well, Paul was water baptized right then. Yet 'mid-Acts-ers' 'move' water baptism into (what-they-call) the 'other' program, meaning 'Israel's prophecy program':

Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and **was baptized**.

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? (**why wait?**) **arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**

By the way, Paul had the signs of an apostle, just like the 12 (2 Cor 12:12) and just like Jesus Christ (Heb 3:1, Acts 2:22).

Whatever the Cunning Royal Jester teaches is what 'mid-Acts-ers' believe.

- He says the body of Christ started with Paul in Acts 9 (with no verse), so they say the body of Christ started with Paul in Acts 9.
- He says the dispensation of grace began with Paul in Acts 9 (with no verse), so they say the dispensation of grace began with Paul in Acts 9.
- He says the water baptism with Paul in Acts 9 does not apply for us, so they say the water baptism with Paul in Acts 9 does not apply for us.
- He says Paul was called by the 'ascended Lord' (also referred to as the 'risen, glorified Lord') to make a contrast with the 12 apostles being called by the 'Lord while He was on the earth', so the dean puts it in his chart "to create teaching situations".

Well, just WHO do 'mid-Acts-ers' think gave the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the apostle John? Rev 1:1 says 'God' did, Rev 1:5 says it is "from Jesus Christ". By the way, John also -- like Paul -- sent 'grace' and 'peace':

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which **God gave unto him**, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Rev 1:4-5 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: **Grace be unto you, and peace**, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And **from Jesus Christ**, who is the faithful witness, and **the first begotten of the dead**, (Rom 8:29) and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

John gave a detailed description of WHO it was that told him to write.

*Oh 'mid-Acts-ers' could This be **the same 'ascended Lord', 'risen and glorified' that appeared to Paul in Acts 9 or was it 'another Jesus'?***

Rev 1:9-19 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and **heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,**

11 **Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book,** and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And **I turned to see the voice that spake with me.** And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto **the Son of man,** clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 **I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore,** Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 **Write the things** which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Without a doubt, Paul was chosen to preach to the Gentiles and Israel:

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

The question is, WHAT did Paul preach? 'Mid-Acts-ers' say he preached a 'different' gospel than the 12 preached, a gospel he called 'MY' gospel.

But what do the scriptures say he preached right there in Acts 9?

Acts 9:20 And straightway **he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.**

Acts 9:22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, **proving that this is very Christ.**

THAT is the SAME message the apostles before him preached, even though he had not conferred with them (Gal 1:16-17) and the SAME 'gospel' that was believed since John the Baptist manifested Christ:

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that **thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

John 11:27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: **I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God,** which should come into the world.

John 20:31 **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

The next passage on the right side of the dean's chart was **taken out of context** to try to make PAUL look 'different' than everyone else:

1 Cor 15:8-10 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

This is the very same chapter where 'mid-Acts-ers' get 'their' gospel.

1 Cor 15:3-4 are the favorite 'mid-Acts' gospel verses. The dean 'conveniently' left out **verses 5-7** then he used **verses 8-10** and left out **verse 11**. We need to read **all the way through** for you to see the dean's **cunning manipulation and wresting** of God's Holy word:

- 1 Cor 15:1-11** Moreover, brethren,
 I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you,
 which also **ye have received**,
 and wherein ye stand;
2 By which also ye are saved,
 if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you,
 unless **ye have believed** in vain.
3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received,
 how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
4 And that he was buried,
 and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
 (Notice that the sentence is not ended here
 There is a list of men who also preached this SAME message:)
5 And that he was seen of Cephas, (that's PETER!)
then of the twelve: (that's Jesus' 12 disciples/apostles)
6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once;
 of whom the greater part remain unto this present,
 but some are fallen asleep.
7 After that, he was seen of James;
then of all the apostles. (No wonder the dean left out all these men
 who he assigns to a 'different' gospel and a 'different' program than Paul!)
8 And last of all he was seen of me (Paul) also,
 as of one born out of due time.
9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an
 apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was be-
 stowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they
 all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. (Here comes the
 kicker showing again where the dean is wrong on issue #16:)
11 Therefore whether it were I or they, (Paul or all of them)
so we preach, and so ye believed.