

The Bible Doctrine of "Instant Ministry"

"And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God." (Acts 9: 18-20)

We see here that Saul (the apostle Paul) "straightway" goes into his ministry. We see this example throughout the new testament-- Why? --Well for one reason we know that ministry is a gift--an anointing--something which is given to "every one of us" (Ephesians 4:7)

Pure Bible doctrine teaches that ministry is a gift which is given "unto men" (Hebrew --"Adam") "mankind".....

"Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: **thou hast received gifts for men;** yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them." (Psalms 68:18, KJV).

But lets look at Saul's "instant ministry" from another perspective.

1. Saul's ministry is that of an apostle.
2. An apostle is a "diakonos" The Greek word which the Bible (somewhat inconsistently!) translates as "servant"--"minister"--"office" or "deacon"
3. The gift of an apostle is named as one of the five gifts which are for the working or use of the "diakonia"

" And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" (Ephesians 4:11-12)

These gifts are stated here as being given "for the work of the ministry" The Greek words used here say it this way---

"eis ergon diakonia"

directly translated: "unto (eis) the work (ergon) of those who are servants (diakonia)"

So we see clearly that these gifts belong to those who are "diakonos"- "people who serve God" (always note--"ministry" is NOT a title of rulership--rather it is always--by it's very defintion--SERVANTHOOD!)

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