

WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRY

By Rev. G. Robert Cox

I believe that Jesus gave the Five Fold Ministry as recorded in Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus and that all five are active today. I also believe that they have been active throughout Christian history, not just being restored now.

Eph 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

The theory that Apostles and Prophets came to an end when John died is based on assumptions not directly stated in God's word. I am in agreement with the idea that some of the original apostles plus Paul were given the task of writing the New Testament. This is not in question. However some of the stated reasons for the ending of Apostles and Prophets is based on assuming that the lack or absence of a particular task or event disqualifies any others from being an apostle or Prophet.

To say that one of the tasks of the first Apostles is a requirement for all Apostles is comparable to the following analogy. The first automobiles made in the early 20th century were black in color and named Fords. Automobiles are commonly known as cars or autos. Therefore all vehicles called cars or autos must be black in color and carrying the name Ford or they are not cars or autos. How foolish is that idea. The idea that God would take away one of the gifts for the building up of His Kingdom is as illogical as the idea that the color black and the name Ford is a required quality of all cars or autos.

Some have said that Apostles and Prophets ended with the completion of the Bible. They also refer to Eph 2:20 as the proof they ended at the end of the First Century.

Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

The theory is that once the Bible was complete there was not a further need for Apostles and Prophets. This is based on the idea that if the foundation was laid by the first Apostles and Prophets the Bible is all that is needed for the work as given in Eph 4:11-16. Until every person on the face of the earth has the bible in his or her hands and can read and understand what is written within the whole of the Bible we will need Apostles and Prophets as well as Evangelists, pastors and Teachers.

I do not agree with the casual and inappropriate use of the titles of Apostle and Prophet that is so common today. As for the restoration of Apostles and Prophets as proclaimed by self appointed Apostles nay God bring conviction of His truth and they seek His forgiveness.

Truly God appointed Apostles and Prophets know within themselves who they are, but do not attach the title Apostle or Prophet to there name. They are known as Apostles or Prophets by their lives and submission to Christ, not by self proclamation.

Walking in the paths God has placed me on has shown the great need for His Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers to equip the Saints for the emense task of taking the Gospel to all corners of the world. Within easy travel distance of our location in The Philippines are uncounted thousands who have never had or read a Bible in their language. How can they know of our Lord and Savior unless someone equips the saints to take the Gospel to them and disciple them after they have been saved?

Rom 10:15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

Now is the time for God's people to go, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them all that Jesus Commanded. AMEN