

PETER, AN APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

When one attempts to write on any controversial subject, immediately, opposition gathers to oppose the conclusion, whether it be fact or fiction.

There is considerable controversy concerning Peter and what his office was when he went to Cornelius and the Gentiles. I hope to shed some light upon his office and piece the parts of this puzzle together.

Before we take up the subject of Peter, I would like to consider what the writer has told us about Paul because it will have direct bearing upon Peter.

At Acts 26:16, the writer says "But rise and stand upon thy feet for I have appeared unto thee to make thee a minister and a witness, both of these things which thou hast seen and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee".

The two key words are, minister and witness. Now minister is a rather easy word because in the Old Testament it is used only of the Levites and priests. In the New Testament it has been extended to apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers in the church. It denotes not merely one who serves but one who worships.

The word witness is a little bit more complicated. At the time Christ walked this earth, I find just twelve chosen eye witnesses, which were the apostles. Luke 1:2, Luke 24:48. According to the Bullinger Lexicon, a witness was to remember, one who has information or knowledge of a thing, bring to light or confirm anything.

The Lord speaking to the eleven at Matt.24:45-48, says that He "opened their understanding that they might understand the scriptures.(46) And said unto them, thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.(47) And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations,"and ye are 'the eleven' witnesses of these things".

By our Lord's own words at Acts 1:8, He told the eleven apostles that they would "be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth".