

ESTABLISHING CHURCHES

Tape #S130-D

MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH

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Okay take your Bibles and turn to Luke 11:49. I want to speak to you in this session on a subject that I call Establishing Churches or Strengthening Churches, okay?

Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute (Luke 11:49). Now that word for send apostello and that word for apostle is apostolos. Now the word apostolos obviously comes from the word apostello. It means the sent one; the messenger; someone that is sent. But I was taught at one time in my life that the only sent ones in the Bible were apostles, angels which are messengers, and ambassadors. Because it does say that ambassadors are sent. It says that apostles are sent. It says that angels are also sent. I understand that it fits in all those categories.

When Paul said that there was a messenger of satan sent to buffet me. I understand that messenger of satan that was sent was an angel, but it was an evil angel which is what we call a demon that was sent to buffet him. Well, it was sent. Somebody sent it. Remember when Jezebel sent a messenger to tell Elijah that by this time tomorrow he was going to be dead because of what he did to all her wonderful little prophets and priests. Well, did you ever wonder why she didn't just send the army if she wanted to kill him? Because she was the queen. She wasn't going to go do it herself the next day, was she with a poison apple or something? They didn't have apples then or she would have. No. She didn't send the army because she didn't know where he was. She sent an evil spirit. She said the messenger she sent was an evil spirit and if you'll look what happened to Elijah, he was oppressed. He got fear and that's the type of spirit that she sent. You see it was a messenger of satan sent to buffet Elijah.

So messengers are sent. Angels of the Lord are sent. Apostles are definitely sent, but we also see here that it says apostles and prophets were sent. So just because a person is sent does not automatically make them have a ministry of an apostle. Nor does it necessarily put them in a position of being an angel. You see? It also doesn't mean that they are an ambassador, necessarily. But probably in a certain sense it would be.

I just want you to understand we need to look and not make so many walls to the categories that we put things in. Let's be a little flexible. It's good to have these understandings of categories so we can understand, but we need to also not make such firm doctrines out of them that we are not flexible enough to read what's actually written here. So yes, apostles are sent. Yes, angels are sent. Yes. Messengers are sent. Ambassadors are sent but so are prophets, sometimes. So are others, sometimes. Remember Ananias was sent to minister to Paul.

Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen (Acts 1:2). How did they get to be apostles? He chose them, right? That's how they got to be apostles. It wasn't that they desired a good work of a bishop and therefore they received it. No. He chose them. And He gave them commandments.

Let me ask you a question. If the Lord chooses to give a commandment to a person and then He tells them to go give it to the people, and the people say, "Forget you. He's my Lord. He can tell me Himself if He wanted me to know." Guess what? They just cut themselves off from receiving from the Lord. Now when they received that commandment from that person then, do they have the right then to take it back and have it confirmed from the Lord? Yes. And He will do that. But if the Lord chooses to rule through His ministries, which He does do, then do we not have to submit to those ministries and understand if we do not then we also are not submitting to the Lord. Because He chooses to rule in the fashion that He chooses to rule. He chooses in this case to give commandments to the apostles whom He chose. Then those apostles, if they want to be worthy, will give those commandments to the people. Then those people will take those commandments and follow them if they want to have the blessings of the Lord.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers (Acts 2:42). If you'll read the record of what continues as they continued in the doctrine received from the apostles which was received from the Lord, they had great blessings upon the church. Everybody's needs were met in the church. There were many added to the church daily.

How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) (Ephesians 3:3-4).

So far we see that Paul was given this mystery and he had a knowledge of it. He received it from Christ. Did he receive it from men? No he received it from Jesus Christ. And for the longest time I couldn't figure out this next verse. Because I was taught that it was Paul's revelation, it was Paul's understanding. He was the one that received the revelation of the mystery. But the next verse says... Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit (v.5). Oh, oh. Wait a minute doesn't God know He is only supposed to tell one guy and leave everything that He teaches up to just one person because after all He is only supposed to have one man of God at a time. No. Paul told the truth. He received the

revelation of the mystery. It was his revelation, but never, ever did he say that he was the only one that received it. There were other apostles and prophets that received it that could also say it was their revelation. They just didn't write Ephesians.

But anyway. It was made known to His apostles and prophets. We need to understand these ministries in terms of how the Lord gives His doctrine to the church. Remember what we said doctrine does? It divides. You say, "Well, yea, we're trying to unify our church in our city, but doctrine keeps dividing us. Well, doctrine is supposed to divide. But it's not supposed to divide people, it's supposed to divide truth from error. It's supposed to divide the devil outside the church, keep him out. So we need to keep our doctrines in a balance so we understand that they are not supposed to divide Christians from one another or denominations from one another, but to divide the truth from the error.

True doctrines come from the Lord. They come through the apostles and the prophets. When they are believed and understood by the people and walked out on, we have the same results as we had back there in Acts chapter two: the blessings of the Lord, great grace, etc.

Now remember the word apostle comes from the word to send, right? Or to be sent. So you'd think that an apostle is somebody that would go somewhere, right? And get sent somewhere, right? Well, look at this: And Saul was consenting unto his death (Stephen's death). And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles (Acts 8:1). Now wait a minute. They did this wrong. Now some people say that they did do it wrong. That the apostles should have left and everybody else should have stayed in Jerusalem. Well, I don't know if that's too smart, either. You don't send your leadership out and have everybody else stay back. But anyway some people say that. The apostles should have gone and they blew it by not going. But nevertheless, were they still apostles? Even though they stayed in Jerusalem? And they never got sent anywhere did they? No. In this case they never got sent anywhere.

Now an attribute of an apostle is to get sent. What happens when you have a sent one that doesn't go anywhere? You have to understand that to be sent does not necessarily mean in a physical or geographical sense, but it could be in terms of being sent with a task to perform. In terms of a prophet, it says, remember he said I will send prophets and apostles, in terms of a prophet being sent to perform his ministry, it's not so much sent with a task as it is sent with a message.

Remember when Agabus came down and told Saul, "Give me your girdle. Give me that belt you're wearing" and he tied his hands and he said, "So shall it be to the man who owns this girdle if he comes to Jerusalem they're going to bind you and turn you over to the Gentiles." And all that stuff came true. See he came down specifically to give that message to Paul. He did give that message. See he was sent, but he was sent as a prophet.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God (Romans 1:1). How did he get to be an apostle? He was called and separated, wasn't he? Who did all the work? Jesus did. He called him. He separated him. He's the one that made him an apostle. Jesus was the One that made him an apostle. It had nothing to do with Paul desiring the office of a bishop. It had nothing to do with what Paul did or didn't do unless the Lord chose those requirements. But it was from Paul's perspective it was only because he was called and the Lord separated him. Whatever requirements the Lord may have had for the job that Paul had to do, Paul fit them. We don't know what the requirements were. We know some of the things that Paul performed. We know how faithful he was. We know what Paul says are the signs of an apostle and we're going to look at those, but in this situation Paul said, "I was called to be an apostle and I was separated by Jesus Christ."

By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name (Romans 1:5). Received that charis, that gift, that grace, and apostleship.

For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death; for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are strong; ye are honorable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; And labor, working with our own hands; being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it; Being defamed, we entreat; we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you (1 Corinthians 4:9-14).

What is he warning them? Don't become apostles. You don't want this job. Remember 1 Corinthians 12:28 says first apostles, the last shall be first and the first shall be last. To whom much is given, much will be required. Look what was required of the apostles in that day.

I want to read you something from this book: it is a brand new book. I've been teaching these teachings that you've been hearing on the ministries and I came across this book just recently. It's hot off the press. It's 1996. It's called The Gift of Apostle by David Canastrossy. I want to read you something he has here about the apostles.

First he quotes the following: I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 10:16-22).

It continues on: "Again patience and endurance are the keys to being saved in the midst of these difficulties. Christ's prophecies of the apostles' suffering proved accurate. Besides enduring the most difficult persecutions while alive, traditional statements tell us that most of the apostles died as martyrs. Matthew died in Ethiopia by the sword. Mark was cruelly dragged through the streets of Alexandria and expired because of his wounds. Luke was hanged by the neck in Greece. Peter was crucified upside down in Rome. James the greater was decapitated in Jerusalem. James the lesser perished after being thrown from a pinnacle of the temple and beaten on the head with a fuller's club. Bartholomew was skinned alive. Andrew was crucified. Thomas was impaled with a lance in the East Indies. Jude was shot to death with arrows. Mathias was first stoned and then beheaded. Barnabas was stoned. Paul the apostle met his death by being beheaded in Rome by the psychopathic Nero. Only John escaped the cruelty of martyrdom though it was attempted. He was put into a caldron of boiling oil, but was miraculously protected. Later banished to Patmos, he was released and died of natural causes."

So when Paul was saying this, he was still alive, yet he was speaking from experience. He knew what it was like to put your life on the line for the people of God. You know Jesus Christ ordained men to ministries, but you know He only ordained men to one ministry. That was the ministry of an apostle. Jesus Christ knew that by having apostles He could continue on His work as long as there were apostles that He could work through He could continue on His church and build His church. Because that is the foundational ministry that He needs in order to work with. And thank God for the apostles and the foundation that the apostles and prophets built, the chief cornerstone being Christ Jesus. Which we build on even unto this day.

Let's read that back in Ephesians. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone (Ephesians 2:19-20). Now the foundation which was laid in the First Century is the foundation which was laid by the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone. But I believe that even though the foundation was laid in the First Century, it really needs to be laid every generation. What good does it do us, what was laid two thousand years ago if we don't know what foundation that was? So it needs to be laid again for us as we learn. We need to build upon that foundation. It is the same Cornerstone which is Christ Jesus. The church needs to be built on those foundations which have been laid. We need to know what those foundations are. We need to build from there. We need to start doing the course so we can build that temple of God. We need to keep going up in the course. We're going to continue talking about this subject, but what the office of apostle meant.

I'm going to talk about something here. I'm going to read you something. I've been teaching about this subject and talking about the various ministries. I taught a teaching just before I went to India called, "Having Enough to Give." I told some of the revelation that the Lord gave me about receiving a prophet in the name of a prophet and receive a prophet's reward. Not all are prophets, but we can all receive the prophet's reward if we

will receive a prophet and the Lord working through that prophet. We can all receive the gift that an apostle receives if we will receive an apostle. We can all receive the gift of an evangelist, or of an intercessor or you name it, because He said if you receive this little one by giving him a drink of water, then you have received Me. When we receive a ministry, we receive the gifts of that ministry and the blessings and the rewards that go with that ministry. That may include to receive that ministry, might be in the sense of giving them the glass of water or giving to their needs in some respect. It might be in the sense of just receiving what they have to say and putting it into effect in your life.

I've been saying for quite a long time that the ministries were lost for many years and they've begun to be restored again. I think the Lord has been restoring them since the First Century. I believe there have always been men with all the ministries and women at all times, but they haven't always been allowed to operate in the church because we haven't allowed them because of our own wrong doctrines or fears or because we've allowed the advisory to be the leader instead of the Lord. We've allowed that envy and strife that we've been seeing to keep us from allowing people to walk in their ministry because we didn't think they had the right qualifications. But I believe He has restored the ministries, basically, at this time. The last one to be restored in these days before He comes to prepare His church for His coming is the ministry of the apostle. We will see the ministry of the apostle come back into its fullness like we did see in the book of Acts.

You know something? If we want to have what they had in the book of Acts, if we want to have a first century church, like they had in the book of Acts and we want to do it without apostles, then we'd better hope that the ministry of an apostle wasn't very much affect in the book of Acts. Because if we're going to try to do what they did, without that, then let's hope they didn't have it, but you look in the book of Acts and that's the ministry that you see everywhere. Yet where do you see it in the church today? You might know somebody that is an apostle, you might not. The point is that where do you see the ministry in operation and the people coming behind it like they did in the first century and understanding the apostles doctrine and then receiving the blessings that came from the Lord by following those commandments. I believe that the Lord is going to bring this ministry back into fruition in its fullness.

After I taught this here awhile back I got an e-mail message. It said, "Lloyd you'd better look on Rick Joyner's web page." (I didn't even know he had a web page.) "It establishes some of the things you've been teaching." This is what I found. It didn't tell me what it was that it would establish so I had to look through it. I found this prophecy for 1996.

"It says, a word from Bob Jones. This year we will not say that the apostles are going to come, but that they have already come. This is the year that the Lord will begin to reveal ministries that have true apostolic authority. We should begin to search the Scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to give us revelation on this ministry. According to Ephesians 4:11-13 it is clear that the apostolic ministries required for the equipping of the church. So this ministry must be restored. If we do not receive a prophet in the name of a prophet, we will not receive a prophet's reward or the full benefit of his ministry. The same is also true of other ministries. If we do not receive an apostle in the name of an apostle, we will

not receive the full benefit of this ministry and therefore we will never be fully equipped."

The Lord is doing this in His church and if we will be faithful we will see this come to pass. Do you realize that in less than four years we will once again be a first century church? It will be the first century again. A whole new century. We get to be a first century church. Wouldn't it be nice if by the time we got to the first century again we could be like the first century church and have the same things in evidence that were in evidence in the first century church? Don't you think the Lord would like to see that? I certainly would like to see that.

I had a meeting with our ministerial association in Missoula just the day before yesterday, before I flew to come here. One of the things that the Lord laid on me in my prayers before I went to the prayer meeting, was something along this line. What I said to my co-laborers there was, "You know the movement of the Lord and the Holy Spirit in the church today, worldwide really, is to unify His church. To bring us together into one. He wants to come back for a bride, not for a harem. He doesn't want us all separated. He wants us to be unified. This is an apostolic move of the Spirit to unify the church. There are certain moves going on right now like for instance Promise Keepers. It is an apostolic move."

When I was in India I was teaching a class on intercession. At this one point the translator was to my right and a little bit in front of me and I said, "In America we have a movement of the Holy Spirit to unify the churches, to tear down walls between denominations, and between brothers and sisters in Christ, to unify the church." He translated that and then he turned around and looked at me and he goes, "Promise Keepers?" What we are doing in our city and what is happening in so many other cities to unify the church of Jesus Christ under one banner, the banner of the Cross, and not be separate because of our denominations but to have one church even though we have differences, to be unified even though we are not uniform, is an apostolic move. What I said to my brothers was, "What we are trying to do in this city is a great thing in the Lord's eyes because it fits within His movement for the church of unity, of repentance, of intercession, of things that the Holy Spirit is doing in the church worldwide. And yet what we're trying to do in our city is an apostolic move of the Spirit and yet even though this is great in the Lord's eyes, we are bound to fail because there is one thing we haven't done." I said, "We have not prayed for an apostolic anointing on the work that we are doing." We are trying to do an apostolic work and we haven't allowed the ministry of the apostle in to do the work, to lead the work. It should have been obvious to me before now, but it never was. It had to be the Holy Spirit that brought it up to me. I think it was well received and I think we will do it.

See, we are going out in our city. We are going out into areas that we've never gone before in our city. None of us that are trying to do this work amongst the pastors have ever done it before. Well, going and doing what hasn't been done before is one of the attributes of the ministry of an apostle. So how are we going to do that unless we ask for that anointing and ask the Lord to rise up ministries of apostle or at least the anointing of

an apostle on those that we have present. See what we need to pray for in our town? But praise the Lord. He told us what to pray for. I thank God that He did. Because we'll win. We're going to beat the devil. We're going to have a good time doing it. We will have one church in my town if I have anything to say about it.

I got real blessed. We had a city-wide prayer and praise meeting to bring in this year. We came together, you know not everybody in the city came, but a number of churches came together and as we came in the one minister that was organizing it, you know he kind of kept track as we came in as to which churches were represented. When he went up front after the praise was over, he started off the meeting by saying, "I counted all the pastors as they came in to keep track of how many churches are represented. After I tallied them all up, I realized there is one church present." I like that kind of math. I think the Lord does too. It was a good way to start off the year.

Let's look at some of the attributes of an apostle. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not ye my work in the Lord? (1 Corinthians 9:1). You know I was taught at one time that every apostle has seen the Lord. I kind of believe that but at the same time I know apostles that haven't actually seen the Lord with their eyes and yet... So I figure I'll leave it up to the Lord.

One time when I was teaching this session, this verse popped into my mind. And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh; for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel... So the Lord revealed Himself and the Lord appeared unto Samuel, right? Keep reading in Shiloh by the word of the Lord. (1 Samuel 3:21). He appeared unto Samuel, yet it doesn't say that necessarily he saw a vision of the Lord. But he saw a vision in his heart. The Lord appeared to him through the word of the Lord. He had that special relationship and he saw that tremendous vision. Do you see what I'm saying there in Samuel anyway, that the Lord appeared unto him through the word of the Lord.

I really do believe that what Paul said that he had seen the Lord and that the apostle saw the Lord. But not every single one of them, I don't believe, saw Him in His resurrected state, necessarily. That's up to the Lord whether He wants it. But I do believe that every apostle will see the Lord in a sense and be drawn into their ministry. See an apostle has authority in the church, but not apostles have all authority over all the church. Each apostle is commissioned to a task within the church. Just like Paul was sent to the Gentiles and Peter was sent to the Jews. In that area of authority they exercised their authority. For the Lord had revealed unto them what they needed to do in that area.

Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience (which is endurance), in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds (2 Corinthians 12:12). Now all these things, if an apostle is walking in their ministry and showing forth these types of things, this is what they are going to show. Does every apostle show every one of these every day? Does every apostle that's called out and ordained start showing these things from day one? I would say, "Probably not." But the Lord chose to put the endurance first, as the first quality that an apostle has to have as he enters into his ministry, his endurance to stand fast regardless of what the devil might throw in his way. Because as we saw from

Paul, there's going to be plenty of things throw in that way. If that person is going to rise up in that ministry and actually exercise authority in the church and represent the Lord in certain areas, then they are going to have to have first and foremost endurance. They will be lead into the signs and the wonders which are signs and the mighty deeds.

And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith (1 Thessalonians 3:2). So he sent, remember who started the church over here in Thessalonica? Well Paul of course was there to found the work. But he is sending Timothy back to establish that work which was already founded or established by Paul. What ministry was Timothy? Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ; Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:1). So the book of Thessalonians was written by Paul, Silas and Timothy. They wrote it. They are the authors.

Nor of men sought we (those three) glory, neither of you, not yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:6). So Paul is showing us that both himself, Silas, and Timothy are all three apostles. So what ministry do we know that Timothy has? We know that he is an apostle. He may have others, but he is at least has the ministry of an apostle. And Paul sent him back to establish the church.

Paul is talking to the church in Rome. Now he's never been to Rome. But there is a church there and he wants to go there and it says For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift (That's the word charisma, the same word that's used as the gift that's in you. It talks about the gift of God's grace.), to the end ye may be established (Romans 1:11). What gift might he have been talking about? Very possibly the gift of apostle that he had. It does talk when you look at this word establish, which is the word sterizo, in the Greek, you will always see when you talk about a person establishing, you're going to see the gift of apostle in relation to this word sterizo.

This is Simon Peter talking to Jesus Christ and Jesus says to him that satan has desired to sift him as wheat...But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren (Luke 22:32). That is the same word that is translated establish, sterizo. Did Peter have other ministries beside the apostle? Yeah. But what is always the thread that we've seen so far here is the apostle. We are talking about sterizo, the brethren, sterizo, the church, it is the ministry of the apostle.

Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began (Romans 16:25). Who is this talking about? It's talking about Jesus Christ who has the power to establish. So who is the origin of the establishing of the churches? Remember Jesus Christ said, "I will build My church." Right? So Jesus Christ is the one that is going to be establishing the churches and He's going to be working through the ministries.

It's talking about the Lord...To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13). Once again the Lord establishing our hearts. Same word sterizo.

Comfort your hearts, and establish you (sterizo) in every good word and work (2 Thessalonians 2:17). It's talking about Jesus Christ Himself and God even our Father hath loved us and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace. He wants the Lord and the Father to establish our hearts, sterizo.

But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

Be ye also patient; establish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh (James 5:8). Establish your hearts, sterizo.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you (1 Peter 5:10).

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth (2 Peter 1:12).

Be watchful, and strengthen (establish) the things which remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found thy works perfect before God (Revelation 3:2).

He's talking to the church at Sardis. See God through Jesus Christ establishes the churches and I believe He does this portion of it through the apostle ministry. You know I want you to look at the word stereos which we are going to look at the word sterizo. We just looked at that. Stereoo, episterizo, and stereos.

It's talking about the man laying at the gate of the temple Beautiful. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength (Acts 3:6-7). Stereoo strength. Do you have a picture of what we're talking about when we talking about establishing or why it is sometimes translated strengthening churches? Because his ankle bones received strength and he could stand and not get blown over. If you stand on one leg you sometimes get blown over.

And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong (same word stereoo), whom ye see and know yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all (Acts 3:16).

And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily (Acts 16:4-5). They were stereo also. Because they were established in the decrees that came from the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. When the churches obeyed as they were established and then they increased in number daily. Just so you get a picture of the root of stereo there.

Now I was teaching some of these things and looking at this a ... I always thought that the ministry of the apostle was the one that sterizo that established the churches. When Paul said, "I want to come to Rome that you might be established" I assumed he was talking about the ministry of the apostle. But then I had some other things brought to my attention. Well you know apostles go in first, but prophets come second and once a thing is done, the second time it is done it is established, that makes sense to me too because when Joseph talked to Pharaoh and he said the second time he had a dream it was because the Lord had established it and he would quickly bring it to pass.

That made sense but then I got to thinking, well, that's only English, too. It could be, you can't be translating into Hebrew one thing and into English and expect it to flow over it. It may not be so I'm going to go back and check this. I had a couple of things happen. First I went back to my computer and I was going through this stuff on establishing churches, I got inspired to go put a tape on that I had done about three years previous. I hadn't listened to it since. I put it on and I am just kind of listening to it out of one ear while I'm double checking all this stuff on establishing churches. Just as I came to, I don't remember what part it was, but I came to the part of about, I think it was sending Timothy to Thessalonica to establish the church, and looking to see what ministry it was and there on the tape I'd taught it three years before and it came up right then. You can't go by your senses but I kind of felt like I was having something confirmed.

I also got a hold of a friend of mine, a great woman of God, an intercessor, that I knew was going to come hear me teach some of this shortly after that and I called her up and said, "Hey do you have time. Maybe you could look at some of these things. I'm not going to give you much information because I don't want to influence you. Would you go back and look at this. I want to see what ministry or ministries that establishes churches." I gave her the Greek words to look at and that was it. After I'd taught the rest of what I'm going to show you here, I asked her if that fit with what she'd seen. She had a file full of notes that she had put together and worked off of her computer program, etc. her Bible programs. She said, "Lloyd I have to throw all my notes out." I said, "How come?" She said, "Well, because I spent all week with the Greek words and you spent all week with the Lord." I said, "Oh, that must mean you agree or approve or something" so I was real thankful for that. So I really believe this is what the Lord is showing me.

Let me continue on and show you the rest of it because I think this is very, very important and profound. The next word I want to look at is episterizo. Remember we looked at sterizo and although you can see the ministry of a prophet at times with sterizo the one ministry that keeps showing up besides God and the Lord Himself, remember the Lord is the Apostle, is the ministry of the apostle. You see that. That is the one thread that goes

through that word that we translate either strengthen or establish is *sterizo*. Well now we have the word *episterizo* which means to, if *sterizo* is to establish, then *episterizo* is to establish again or make it more firm, do it a second time you might say. This word is used four times in the Bible all four of them in the book of Acts. Let's take a look and see what ministry we see with this one. There isn't a ministry in every verse, but I want you to see which ministry comes with the word *episterizo*.

Confirming (*episterizo*) the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). I believe that is the word confirming there. Confirming is the word *episterizo*.

And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them (Acts 15:32). So what ministry do we have? Now remember Silas who was Silvanus, remember he was also an apostle, right? We say that back in 1 Thessalonians. But here which ministry is being pointed out? The prophet ministry. Judas and Silas being prophets also themselves... It ties the ministry of the prophet with the word *episterizo*.

And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches (Acts 15:41). Once again, what ministry do you think was in operation while confirming the churches? The ministry of the prophet.

And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples (Acts 18:23). Which ministry is in operation here? The ministry of a prophet. *Episterizo*-ing the disciples.

Now there is one more word we want to look at *sterios*. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth (*histemi*) sure, having this seal. The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19). That word standeth is the word *histemi* which you will know from Ephesians 6 where it says, "having done all stand" that also comes from the same root of establish. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth. The foundation is the *sterios*, that foundation. We're going to keep going because we want to see what ministry we have with *sterios*. That helps us by that foundation that helps us *histemi* that helps us stand, that will help to establish us in every good word and work.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong (*sterios*) meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But strong (*sterios*) meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:12-14). What ministry do we have there for *sterios*? To strengthen in that sense? Teacher.

First we have a stereos, which is done by the Lord through the ministry of the apostle. Then we have an episterizo, which is done by the Lord through the ministry of the prophet. Then we have a bringing into the strong meat of the establishing in that sense of stereos in that through the teacher we bring the people into the point where they're not dependent on milk anymore but where they can handle the strong meat. Then does that leave out the other ministries? No. Because then we also need the evangelist working to bring in others and to help bring in more so that we can continue to strengthen the work. Then we need the pastors to work in with the helps to keep those men and women steering in the right direction on the doctrine which has been set by the apostles and the prophets. But guess what we did in the first century? We did it exactly this. We went in with the apostles and we came in with the prophets and we went with the teachers. We brought the evangelist in and we went to the pastors and then guess what we did? We stopped. That's where we've been ever since for the most part.

What do you think the Lord wanted to happen? Why do you think Paul was sending Timothy back to Thessalonica? Why was it that Paul wanted to go to Rome? To keep the process going. Once the foundation was laid on the Cornerstone and the first course was laid, starting with the apostles and going on around, all the way to the pastors and then kept whole and plain by the intercession of the saints, then he didn't want it to stop there. What do you think he wanted to happen next? He wanted the next course to get laid. Then he wanted the next course to get laid. Then he wanted the next course to get laid. What do you think is going to bring us into those courses? First the apostles, then the prophets, then the teachers, then the evangelists and pastors which are all held together by the intercession of the saints. The Lord working. It all has to be built on that foundation which is Jesus Christ working in everybody.

Can you see a vision of where the church needs to go and what we need to do? Can you see why the foundation needs to be the apostles and prophets, but it needs to be laid every generation? We need to keep it going and we need to go build until that temple is completed. When the Lord is done with His work, He will come for His church.

Praise the Lord we are coming to the point in our day and time once again when we will see the ministries in operation again. We will be able to once again finish off that course that the Lord wants built before He comes for His church where that temple will be completed to the point that it is going to be completed for when He comes forth. Can you see a vision? Can you understand that we can't do an apostolic work without the apostles in operation? Can you understand that we can't complete a work if we don't get it started correctly? Can you understand that maybe we've been doing things a little backwards? Praise the Lord.

We need all the ministries in operation. We need every child of God to rise up and to do what they were called to do because we are all members in particular. Every one of us has access to the Father through the Son. We also understand that He called the ministries for a reason. To perfect the saints and to edify the saints and if we will then submit ourselves unto those that are called as rulers over us, and then take it back to the Lord to let Him confirm it, we will then be walking in power, not as lords over God's heritage, no, but yet

if we allow the ministries to operate in their function, in their place, we will support one another and minister to each other and let the Lord lead and let the Lord be the Shepherd and Overseer and Bishop. Let Him be the apostle. Let Him be the one who decides the direction of the church. Let Him be the one that brings in the new light.

You know I've heard it said that apostles are church planters. That they go out and they plant new churches. But I'm going to tell you that's not all that apostles do. Because apostles go out and plant new churches, but they also come and they plant new into the churches. That's exactly what we need in this day and time. We need our churches established. We need this ministry in here so we can tie all the ministries together so we can get the word done. Because we need to do what the Lord wants us to do in the church. We all will be blessed and we will all see again the great signs and wonders that were done in the first century churches.

It's been said that we're right where we should be. We went from the apostles right on up to the pastors and that's where we stayed. That's good. Because we want to stay there because after all that was a baby church back in the first century and we are a mature church. Well, I deny that. I say we are not a mature church. I say we are just an old church. I say we can learn from the young church. If we could do half the things that the young church did, I think we would be pretty mature.

I'd like to see the same things that were done in the first century done in my time. I'd like to see it done before where we are a first century church again as far as the calendar goes. We are approaching the next century and before we get to the year 2000 I would like to see these things happen. I would like to see the church once again have the fullness of the ministries in operation so that people in the church can receive the fullness of all the ministries because I believe that we all ought to be able to receive a full reward. We can only receive a prophet's reward if we receive a prophet in the name of a prophet. We're only going to receive the rewards of the apostle as we receive an apostle in the name of the apostle. And right on down through all the ministries. We need all the ministries in operation and we all need the benefits of each one. We need to understand when there is an apostolic anointing or a prophetic anointing or an anointing to teach or someone has been risen up to walk in the ministry of a pastor who may not have the ministry of a pastor. Let's not stand in their way and let's let the Lord lead and let's get this job done so we can get out of here and spend some time with the Lord face to face because I do believe that there are things that need to be done before He'll come. I know He could come any time He wants and I'm not going to stop Him that's for sure even if I could I wouldn't. But I can't. Believe me. But I do believe because I understand His mind. He has not spent almost two-thousand years putting together a project to pull everybody out of here just when it's starting to come together. He's going to finish the work and the courses are going to be laid and the temple is going to be built. And God Almighty is going to have a place to dwell. It's going to be the Church that Jesus Christ built and we will receive the rewards that come from the obedience if we will allow the Lord to do the building through us. So praise God let's let Him build it.