

# Our Ambassadorship

A 10-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®  
Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

## About This Series

In this ten-lesson series, Pastor Keith Blades examines the grand privilege of the two-fold ambassadorship believers hold in the Dispensation of Grace. Believers are not only ambassadors with the gospel of God’s grace — the word of reconciliation to the lost — but also ambassadors with the mystery of the gospel, making an impact in the heavenly places upon the principalities and powers aligned with Satan. Four essential aspects of this ambassadorship are explored in sequence: the privilege, the responsibility, the fight, and the glory. Designed as a “why-to” rather than a “how-to,” this series is crafted to produce in believers the zeal, enthusiasm, and delight needed to function faithfully as ambassadors for Christ. It serves as a natural companion to Keith’s series on Israel’s Great Commissions and Our Commissions, building upon that dispensational foundation.



## Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Introduction to the two-fold ambassadorship and the four major issues: privilege, responsibility, fight, and glory
<b>Lesson 2</b>	The privilege of ambassadorship with the word of reconciliation; sonship as the true motivation for faithful witnessing
<b>Lesson 3</b>	The responsibility to be trained God’s way; Romans–Philemon as the complete ambassadorial curriculum
<b>Lesson 4</b>	Equipped by Romans 1–5: the gospel tears down self-defense tactics and arms the ambassador for every encounter
<b>Lesson 5</b>	The mystery of the gospel: the second aspect of ambassadorship and its impact in the heavenly places
<b>Lesson 6</b>	Three components of faithfulness: loyal to the message, to the opportunities, and to the cause
<b>Lesson 7</b>	The fight: identifying the three phases of the satanic policy of evil against faithful ambassadors
<b>Lesson 8</b>	Phase one of the fight: other gospels and perversions of the gospel of Christ examined from Galatians
<b>Lesson 9</b>	Four clever perversions of the gospel and the true biblical definition of

Lesson	Core Focus
	repentance (metanoeo)
<b>Lesson 10</b>	The glory of ambassadorship: the full picture of the honor and impact of serving as Christ's ambassadors

## Lesson Summaries

L1

### The Two-Fold Ambassadorship *Introducing the Four Major Issues*

- Believers in the Dispensation of Grace hold a two-fold ambassadorship: with the gospel of God's grace (the word of reconciliation) and with the mystery of the gospel
- Ambassadorship with the gospel invites the lost to receive forgiveness of sins and justification unto everlasting life by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Ambassadorship with the mystery of the gospel makes an impact in the heavenly places upon the principalities, powers, mights, and dominions aligned with Satan

#### Four Major Issues of Our Ambassadorship:

- Privilege — the grand standing and distinction of being an ambassador for Christ in this dispensation
- Responsibility — being trained and faithful in every aspect of ambassadorial service
- Fight — engaging the satanic policy of evil that actively opposes faithful ambassadors
- Glory — the honor and eternal impact of functioning as Christ's ambassadors
- This series builds upon Keith's earlier study, "Israel's Great Commissions and Our Commissions," and assumes that dispensational foundation

L2

### The Privilege — The Word of Reconciliation *Sonship as the Foundation of Faithful Witnessing*

- The privilege of ambassadorship must be understood first; without it, responsibility and fight cannot be properly motivated

#### Two Faulty Motivations for Witnessing:

- Guilt — witnessing out of obligation while feeling unenthusiastic; the wrong kind of pressure
- Obligation — treating ambassadorship like a commission-based duty inherited from Israel's program
- The correct motivation flows from understanding the privilege of sonship given to believers in the Dispensation of Grace (Galatians 4:4–5)
- Sonship is not the same as salvation from sin's penalty — Israel's justified saints receive the adoption of sons only in the coming kingdom

#### The Privilege of Sonship Today:

- At salvation, believers receive sonship status — God treats us as sons in this

dispensation as a grace privilege

- A twice-dead Gentile having no claim on sonship whatsoever makes this a staggering privilege of God's grace
- Understanding and appreciating this privilege produces the zeal, enthusiasm, and ambition that motivate faithful ambassadorial service

L3

### **The Responsibility — Equipped by God's Word** *Being Trained*

*God's Way for Ambassadorial Service*

- Responsibility begins with being trained God's way through the specific curriculum He has provided: Romans through Philemon
- Both aspects of ambassadorship — the gospel to the lost and the mystery to the heavenly realm — require proper training
- Romans 15:14–15 — Paul commends the Romans as “filled with all knowledge” and therefore “able to admonish one another”

#### **What “Filled with All Knowledge” Means:**

- Not exhaustive knowledge, but the specific ambassadorial content needed to communicate the gospel faithfully
- This knowledge results in the capacity to admonish — to proclaim, instruct, and warn in ambassadorial ministry
- 2 Timothy 3 — God's word thoroughly furnishes the believer for every good work, including ambassadorial service
- No special training beyond Romans–Philemon is required — the curriculum God has provided is sufficient

L4

### **The Responsibility — Equipped by Romans 1–5** *Tearing Down*

*Self-Defense Tactics*

- The first five chapters of Romans form the cornerstone of ambassadorial education, equipping believers to present the gospel to every kind of person
- Romans 1–3 exposes every person's guilt before God, stripping away the natural self-defense tactics of the human heart

#### **Four Self-Defense Tactics (Romans 1–3):**

- Judging others (Romans 2) — the moralist who judges others while committing the same things
- Extenuating circumstances — the Gentile who claims ignorance of God's law as a defense
- The Jewish boast (Romans 2:17–28) — trusting in having and knowing the law without actually keeping it
- Presuming on God's patience (Romans 3:1–8) — arguing that God's forbearance means no coming judgment
- Romans 4–5 establish justification by faith alone, removing all grounds for works-based self-justification
- This equipment gives ambassadors discernment to respond appropriately to the various reactions they will encounter

L5

## **The Mystery — Our Second Ambassadorship** *Impact in the Heavenly Places*

- Both aspects of ambassadorship are of equal importance but are not equally appreciated — the mystery aspect is often overlooked
- 1 Corinthians 4 — Paul examines the privilege and responsibility of ministry in light of both ambassadorial realms

### **Two Realms of Ambassadorial Impact:**

- The world of unsaved men — those who need justification by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- The angelic realm — the principalities, powers, mights, and dominions aligned with Satan who will be evicted from the heavenly places
- The cross of Christ is inherently offensive and foolish to the natural man; ambassadors must not minimize or remove this offensiveness
- Being an ambassador by position does not guarantee faithfulness in practice — the policy of evil works to undermine both aspects
- Understanding the mystery of the gospel produces equal zeal for both forms of ambassadorial service

L6

## **The Responsibility — Three Areas of Faithfulness** *Loyal to the Message, the Opportunities, and the Cause*

- Faithfulness is the central theme of ambassadorial responsibility, expressed in three distinct but related areas

### **Three Components of Faithfulness:**

- Faithful to the message — not watering it down, not pleasing men, standing firm on the pure gospel of God's grace without addition or subtraction
- Faithful to the opportunities — taking advantage of every occasion to function as an ambassador (1 Thessalonians 1:8: they "sounded out" the word of the Lord)
- Faithful to the cause — remaining loyal to the ambassadorial mission even under the pressures of the fight
- The Thessalonians serve as a model: their faith went out everywhere so that Paul and others "need not to speak anything" about it
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 — they received the word not as the word of men but as the word of God, which effectually worked in them
- Faithfulness to the cause naturally transitions into confronting the reality of the fight

L7

## **The Fight — The Satanic Policy of Evil** *Identifying the Three Phases of Opposition*

- 2 Timothy 4:7 — Paul declares: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"
- Each phrase in Paul's declaration corresponds to withstanding one of the three phases of the policy of evil

### **Three Phases of the Policy of Evil:**

- Phase 1: Attack the message — tempt the ambassador to corrupt,

compromise, or soften the gospel of God's grace

- Phase 2: Attack the messenger — produce intimidation, fear, and terror to silence the ambassador (2 Timothy 1:7–8: “God hath not given us the spirit of fear”)
- Phase 3: Discredit and discourage the messenger — create circumstances designed to undermine loyalty to the cause
- Timothy had become partially victimized: he had stopped doing the work of an evangelist and was no longer making full proof of his ministry
- The fight is real — but Paul calls it “a good fight,” signifying that it is a fight of honor with a glorious purpose and outcome

L8

### **The Fight — Other Gospels and Perversions** *Phase One: Attacking the Gospel Message*

- Phase one of the policy of evil is the most consequential: if the message is corrupted, phases two and three become unnecessary
- Galatians 1:6–9 — Paul expresses shock that the Galatians were “so soon removed” from the gospel of God's grace unto another gospel

#### **Two Categories of Gospel Corruption:**

- Other gospels — legitimate gospels belonging to other dispensations (e.g., the kingdom gospel, the everlasting gospel of Revelation) misapplied to today
- Perversions of the gospel of Christ — corruptions of Paul's gospel that add works, conditions, or human effort to faith
- The Galatian perversion added circumcision and law-keeping to faith in Christ — making it a faith-plus-works message that could not save
- An ambassador who proclaims a perversion of the gospel becomes an ambassador for Satan rather than for Christ
- Recognizing and rejecting gospel perversions is the first and most important form of faithfulness to the message

L9

### **The Fight — Four Gospel Perversions** *Identifying Common Attacks on the Gospel of Grace*

- 2 Corinthians 5 — the central ambassadorial passage — is revisited as the examination of phase one of the fight continues

#### **Four Clever Perversions of the Gospel of Grace:**

- Adding “turn from sin” as a requirement for salvation — a common but false definition of repentance
- True repentance (Greek: metaneo) means to change one's mind — not to turn from sin; God repents in Scripture (at least 5 occasions), proving the word cannot mean turning from sin
- Conflating the Christian walk (turning from sins) with the salvation message — what belongs to sanctification does not belong to justification
- Conditioning eternal life on anything beyond faith alone in Christ alone — any addition negates the grace of the gospel
- Romans 2:3–4 — repentance in the salvation context means changing one's mind about being righteous and worthy of escaping God's judgment

- Ambassadors must clearly distinguish between what belongs to the Christian walk and what constitutes the salvation message

## L10

### **The Glory — The Full Picture** *The Honor of Ambassadorship with the Gospel and the Mystery*

- This concluding lesson draws together all four issues — privilege, responsibility, fight, and glory — into a unified picture
- This series has been a “why-to,” not a “how-to” — designed to build the appreciation that produces genuine zeal and delight in ambassadorial service

#### **Two Dimensions of the Glory:**

- The glory of ambassadorship with the gospel of salvation (2 Corinthians 2:14–16) — believers are a sweet savor to God whether individuals respond positively or negatively
- The glory of ambassadorship with the mystery — making manifest the manifold wisdom of God to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places
- Ephesians 3:9–10 — God’s eternal purpose in Christ: the church, the body of Christ, will reconcile all things in heaven and earth in the dispensation of the fullness of times
- The glory and the privilege go hand in hand — the privilege IS the glory, viewed from different angles
- When the privilege, responsibility, fight, and glory are rightly understood and appreciated, the zeal, enthusiasm, and ambition of Paul naturally follow

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## Key Doctrinal Distinctions

### **The Two-Fold Ambassadorship**

Believers today do not hold one ambassadorship but two: the familiar ambassadorship with the gospel of God’s grace (the word of reconciliation to the lost) and the less-appreciated ambassadorship with the mystery of the gospel. The first impacts the unsaved world of men; the second makes an impact in the heavenly places upon the principalities, powers, mights, and dominions aligned with Satan. Both are equally important, and a proper understanding of both produces equal zeal for both forms of ambassadorial service.

### **Sonship vs. Salvation**

Sonship is not the same as salvation from the debt and penalty of sin. In this Dispensation of Grace, believers receive the status of sons at the moment of salvation — a privilege not granted to Israel’s justified saints, who await the adoption of sons in the coming kingdom (Galatians 4:4–5). This unique grace-dispensation privilege is the foundation for understanding why we are ambassadors and what motivates faithful ambassadorial service: not guilt or obligation, but the appreciation of a staggering privilege.

## The Gospel vs. The Mystery

Paul's two-fold message consists of "my gospel" (Romans 16:25a) — the salvation message to every creature — and "the mystery" (Romans 16:25b; Ephesians 3) — the dispensational revelation of God's hidden plan for the church as the body of Christ. The gospel was promised in the Old Testament; the mystery was "hid in God from ages" and had never before been revealed. A faithful ambassador understands the distinction and handles both accurately.

## Why-To vs. How-To Ambassadorship

This series is explicitly not a practical guide for witnessing techniques. Its purpose is to build the doctrinal foundation — the "why" — that produces genuine motivation for ambassadorial service. When the privilege is appreciated, when the responsibility is embraced, when the fight is understood, and when the glory is grasped, the result is not reluctant duty but the same kind of zealous enthusiasm and delight that characterized the Apostle Paul in his own ambassadorial ministry.

## Key Scripture References

<b>2 Corinthians 5:18–20</b>	The word of reconciliation and the calling to be ambassadors for Christ; the foundational ambassadorial passage
<b>Ephesians 3:9–10</b>	The mystery hidden from ages; the church making manifest the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers
<b>Ephesians 6:18–20</b>	Paul as an ambassador in bonds, praying for boldness to make known the mystery of the gospel
<b>Galatians 4:4–5</b>	The basis for sonship in the Dispensation of Grace: redemption from the law to receive the adoption of sons
<b>Romans 15:14–15</b>	Believers filled with all knowledge and able to admonish one another — proof of ambassadorial readiness
<b>1 Thessalonians 1:8</b>	The Thessalonians sounding out the word of the Lord — a model example of faithfulness to ambassadorial opportunities
<b>2 Timothy 4:7</b>	Paul's threefold declaration: fought a good fight, finished the course, kept the faith — each phase of the fight withstood
<b>2 Timothy 1:7–8</b>	God has not given us the spirit of fear — the antidote to phase two of the satanic policy of evil
<b>Galatians 1:6–9</b>	Another gospel that is not another — the corruption of the gospel of God's grace into a perversion that cannot save
<b>Romans 2:3–4</b>	The true meaning of repentance in the salvation context: changing one's mind about being righteous before God

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