

# 1 Timothy 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

## Analysis

**Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.** Paul asserts his apostolic calling to proclaim the gospel to Gentiles. "Whereunto" connects to verse 6—for the purpose of testifying to Christ's ransom, Paul was "ordained" (etethēn, ἐτέθην), literally "appointed" or "placed." This divine appointment wasn't self-assumed but God's sovereign act. Paul fills three roles: "preacher" (kēryx, κῆρυξ)—herald proclaiming authoritative message; "apostle" (apostolos, ἀπόστολος)—commissioned messenger with divine authority; "teacher" (didaskalos, διδάσκαλος)—instructor in Christian doctrine.

The parenthetical oath "I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not" emphasizes the seriousness of his claim. Paul's apostleship to the Gentiles was sometimes questioned; he solemnly affirms its authenticity "in Christ"—under Christ's authority and in His presence. This isn't casual assertion but sworn testimony. His specific calling was to the "Gentiles" (ethnōn, ἔθνῶν), the nations outside Israel, bringing gospel light to those formerly excluded from covenant promises.

This ministry to Gentiles is characterized by "faith and verity" (pistei kai alētheia, πίστει καὶ ἀληθείᾳ). "Faith" refers to the gospel content he proclaimed and the response he sought; "verity" or "truth" emphasizes the absolute truthfulness of his message. Paul didn't proclaim human speculation or cultural adaptation but divine revelation received and faithfully transmitted.

## Historical Context

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Paul's specific calling to the Gentiles began at his Damascus road conversion (Acts 9:15; 22:21; 26:17-18) and defined his entire ministry. While other apostles focused on Jewish ministry, Paul pioneered Gentile missions, establishing churches throughout the Roman Empire. This division of labor was recognized at the Jerusalem Council (Galatians 2:7-9), though Paul also ministered to Jews when possible (Romans 1:16).

Opposition to Paul's apostleship came from multiple sources: Jewish Christians who doubted his credentials, false teachers who questioned his authority, and Judaizers who opposed his law-free gospel to Gentiles. The defensive tone in the Pastoral Epistles suggests these challenges continued throughout his ministry. His oath-like assertion here underscores the seriousness of these challenges and his need to assert genuine apostolic authority.

The inclusion of Gentiles in God's people without requiring circumcision or full law observance represented the most controversial aspect of early Christianity. Many Jewish believers struggled to accept that Gentiles could be saved on equal terms through faith alone. Paul's ministry demonstrated God's universal saving purposes, breaking down the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:14-16).

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How clearly do you understand your specific calling from God, and how faithfully are you fulfilling it?

2. In what ways do you balance appropriate humility with firm conviction about gospel truth?
3. How effectively does your church reach beyond cultural and ethnic comfort zones to include diverse people groups?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰς	ὅ	εἰτέθην	ἐγὼ	κῆρυξ	καὶ	ἀπόστολος
Whereunto	G3739	am ordained	I	a preacher	and	an apostle
G1519		G5087	G1473	G2783	G2532	G652
ἀληθείᾳ	λέγω	ἐν	Χριστῷ,	οὐ	ψεύδομαι	διδάσκαλος
the truth	(I speak	in	Christ	not	and lie	) a teacher
G225	G3004	G1722	G5547	G3756	G5574	G1320
ἐθνῶν	ἐν	πίστει	καὶ	ἀληθείᾳ		
of the Gentiles	in	faith	and	the truth		
G1484	G1722	G4102	G2532	G225		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 9:15** (Parallel theme): But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

**2 Timothy 1:11** (Parallel theme): Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

**Romans 9:1** (Truth): I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

**Romans 15:16** (References Christ): That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

**Romans 11:13** (Parallel theme): For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

**Galatians 1:16** (Parallel theme): To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

**Galatians 2:9** (Parallel theme): And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

**Galatians 1:20** (Parallel theme): Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

**Acts 26:20** (Parallel theme): But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

**Acts 22:21** (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

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