

Is Paul Real or Fake?

Note Well –

- ~~a. Because Paul was not a disciple of Jesus in His earthly ministry, he did not receive inspiration as other apostles did – Jn.20:22~~
- ~~b. Lord appointed 12 apostles, Mt.10:2 [not 13]. [Ac.1:21-26; Ac.13:1-3, Paul was an ‘apostle’ of churches, not of Lord]~~
- ~~c. Paul went to Gentiles, Gal.2:9. Thus, Paul may be a servant, a preacher, but he can’t be an apostle~~

– Judaizers

Conclusion: lies, lies, and more lies

- No wonder: Paul's first words to Galatians – Paul, an apostle; not just any apostle, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father...
- Ordinarily at this point we would begin with an introduction to Galatians...

I. Paul, an Apostle, 1

Paul is an apostle [emphatic]

Despite objections of Judaizers

1. His authority derives from God, ∴ to oppose him is to oppose God. Our society needs this warning. Many still reject Paul...
2. He answers Judaizers' false charges. They are both wrong and lost.
3. He is Lord's ambassador, speaking / writing with heavenly authority.

Paul is an apostle

1. Not from men nor through man. [Cf. Isaiah 6]
 - Judaizers oppose / slander everyone they cannot answer
 - They are mere men with authority of mere men
 - Paul graduated with honors from school of Gamaliel – Ph.3:...7-8 (Ac.22:3)
 - He counted it all garbage when compared to salvation in Christ

Paul is an apostle . . .

2. But through Jesus Christ and the Father Who raised Him from the dead
 - Jesus could make Paul an apostle as He did the 12
 - The Godhead sent Paul
 - Jesus appeared to Paul more gloriously than He did to the twelve (Ac.9)

I. Paul, an Apostle, 1

II. Paul's Brethren, 2

All the brethren who are with me...

- Paul is not alone: other faithful brothers stand with him
- Paul answers those who are bringing the Galatians into spiritual slavery

To the churches of Galatia...

North or South?

Acts 13-14



I. Paul, an Apostle, 1

II. Paul's Brethren, 2

III. Paul's Wish, 3

Grace to you and peace

- Grace – anticipates v. 6; 5:4 – stay in it
- Peace – ‘all is well.’ Paul’s wish: peace to Galatians. (6-9)

From God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ

1. NB: Jesus is Author of grace / peace as is the Father.
2. These are heavenly blessings. Will Galatians forfeit them?

I. Paul, an Apostle, 1

II. Paul's Brethren, 2

III. Paul's Wish, 3

IV. Paul's Gratitude to the Lord, 4

- A. Who gave Himself: sacrifice. Death on cross.
- B. For our sins: salvation. The only sacrifice that could save.
- C. That He might deliver us: rescue. Ac.7:10. 7:34. 12:11. God wants to win back His lost children (cf. Lk.15:11).
- D. From this present evil age: relief. This evil age opposes God. Cf. Judaizers.
- E. According to the will of our God and Father:
 - Recovery from sin is what God wants for all

I. Paul, an Apostle, 1

II. Paul's Brethren, 2

III. Paul's Wish, 3

IV. Paul's Gratitude, 4

V. Paul's Doxology, 5

‘To Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen’

- Glory: the radiance of His presence
 - Ep.3:21, in the church
- In every epistle, Paul gives thanks for readers... except for Galatians [cf. 1 Co.1:4...]
- Doxology (v.5).
 - 8-9 – they ask for curse instead

I. Paul, an Apostle, 1

II. Paul's Brethren, 2

III. Paul's Wish, 3

IV. Paul's Gratitude, 4

V. Paul's Doxology, 5

VI. Paul's Shock (amazement), 6

- I marvel: context determines the sense (8-9)
 - Instead of doxology, a curse
- That you are turning away: change mind / allegiance, turn away; present process
 - 1 K.21:25. [4:9-11]
 - Truth clearly taught, strengthened by visits...
- So soon: includes element of surprise, sorrow, rebuke
 - Did they fall shortly after his last visit?
 - Or hastily after invasion of Judaizers?

Sudden apostasy

1. No long struggle wore them down
2. Judaizers came. Galatians let them in

- I marvel: context determines the sense (8-9)
- That you are turning away: change mind / allegiance, turn away; present process
 - 1 K.21:25. [4:9-11]
- So soon: includes element of surprise, sorrow, rebuke. Mk.6:...6
- From Him who called you in the grace of Christ:
 - Galatians in process of abandoning grace
 - Gal.5:4
- To a different gospel: different in kind; fake. 2:4; 3:1.

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II. Paul's Brethren, 2

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V. Paul's Doxology, 5

VI. Paul's Shock, 6

VII. Paul's Assessment, 7

They have embraced a different gospel

- Which is not another (of same kind)
 - There is one gospel: when distorted, it becomes one of another kind
- There are some who trouble you: Ac.15:24
- Want to pervert [change, distort] gospel of Christ. 2 Co.11:3-4
 - Gospel is unique, exclusive, salvific, powerful, eternal, necessary, divine.
 - ‘There are many ways...’
 - ‘I just can’t see it...’
 - ‘I don’t care...’

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VII. Paul's Assessment, 7

VIII. Paul's Fictional Warning, 8

- Even if we... (apostle ... or angel) – 1 K.13
- Preach any other gospel to you...
 - Message, not messenger, matters
 - Synods, counsels think they can change NT
 - Ac.5:29
- Let him be accursed
 - No matter how high the authority...spiritual murderers will pay. Mt.23:15
 - Utility passages – Dt.4:2; Rv.22:18f.

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IX. Paul's Factual Warning, 9

- If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you received... (8-9: greater to lesser)
 - This is reality: it happened in Galatia and other places. Churches beware!
 - Though they 'received' gospel, they traded it for a counterfeit
- Let him be accursed
 - Christ haters (1 Co.16:22) / blasphemers (12:3)
 - Paul pronounces the curse against anyone who perverts the gospel
 - Is Paul too harsh??

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X. Paul's Persuasion, 10

- For do I now persuade men, or God?
 - Some accused Paul of being a timeserver
 - Paul is a preacher, not politician. He did not tickle ears
- Or do I seek to please men?
 - We have a choice: please men or God
 - To please men: flatter, compromise
 - Does Paul's language resemble flattery?
- For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ
 - 1 Co.9:20, minor matters
 - Ga.2:5, major matters

Significance of study: Zionism

Also: Galatians warns us –

- Possibility of apostasy.
- We must know the Word. Truth is the antidote to error only if we use it accurately. **‘The gospel is ours to proclaim, not to edit’** – Anon.
- We must be aware of dangerous errors.
- Ignorance and gullibility kill souls.
- We must reject all counterfeits.

Timely Warning

- “That which does not teach Christ is not apostolic, even if Peter and Paul be the teachers. On the other hand, that which does teach Christ is apostolic, even if Judas, Annas, Pilate, or Herod should propound it” – Martin Luther