



A-Z BIBLE STUDY 8

PAUL: WHY IS HE SO MISUNDERSTOOD

I. PAUL: WHO WAS HE?

1. Was he one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus? _____. He was an apostle (we (including Paul) are all disciples- or _____. An apostle means to be sent on a mission and is given authority of the one who sent him.
2. Paul was literally the first _____. An apostle is the same as a _____. And he was a Pharisee which meant that he had great knowledge of the _____.
3. Missionaries were told NOT to collect money for themselves but rather ONLY if the people they were going to were in need. Let's see this in scripture: Luke 9:3 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. "Take nothing for the journey, He told them, "no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that area." Notice, people who were sent out were not setting up 501c3 ministries.
4. Let's see what the scriptures tells us about tithing: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. And when I come, whosoever ye shall approved by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto _____. What was still standing? _____. There were also _____ mentioned in the New Covenant. But do the scriptures ever tell us to build buildings? _____ Does Paul ever discuss building buildings? _____.

The Christianization of sites that had been pagan occurred as a result of conversions in early Christian times, as well as an important part of the strategy of Interpretatio Christiana ("Christian reinterpretation") during the Christianization of pagan peoples. The landscape itself was Christianized, as prominent features were rededicated to Christian saints. Wikipedia (Google)

5. How many times does the Bible use the word “pastor”? _____ Let’s see what the scriptures have to say about rolls. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, and cunning craftiness, of deceitful plotting; But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, who is the head - Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:11-17

6. When you read that, are the roles above meant for people to stay in higher positions and people to stay in lower? What do you see here? What do the scriptures say about milk?

7. Does this mean that God can’t use manmade churches? _____ He obviously does great things through them despite our need for control. However- I just want you to be cautious of this:

_____ “For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace. As in ALL the churches (this word is ecclesia or gathering) of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:32

II. WHY IS PAUL SO CONFUSING

1. Peter warns us in 2 Peter 3:15-17 “and consider that the longsuffering of our LORD is salvation-as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the scriptures. Therefore, beloved, since you already know these things, be on your guard not to be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure standing; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

2. Let’s read Acts 10:1-28: is this about all food being clean? _____

3. Acts 13:39 “And by him that believe are justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.” What is this saying? Can we be justified or redeemed by the law? _____ We see that the law keeps us from following the world: Romans 6:16 “Don’t you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey- either of sin (lawlessness) leading to death or of obedience (to the law) leading to righteousness? God says, if you love Me, you will _____ my commandments, statutes and laws/judgments. Also- that we cannot have two _____.

4. Paul instructs how to handle new believers, as not to overwhelm them: Acts 15:20 “Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.” What are the top most important laws Paul wants the gentiles to start with? _____. You will see an argument in the New Covenant in Corinthians about circumcision and the emphasis on new believers being circumcised – rather than first the teaching of the law. It looks like the argument is against circumcision, but the argument is against it being “first”! Circumcision of the heart must occur (remember, everything is being transferred from physical to spiritual), is now more important than the circumcision of the flesh. What good is circumcision of the flesh if people don’t know how to be circumcised of the heart? It means nothing!

5. Was Jesus circumcised? _____. The circumcision of Jesus is an event from the life of Jesus, according to the Gospel of Luke chapter 2, which states: “And when eight days were fulfilled to circumcise the child, his name was called Jesus, the name called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” Jesus’s parents followed the Covenant perfectly.

6. The Old Covenant was circumcision of the skin first (as a baby – 8 days old) and being taught the laws and commandments as that child grew. Now that new (adult believers), are coming into the New Covenant, the emphasis is on the heart first, flesh second.

7. Why is this so important? Galatians 5:16 “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you don not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are : fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, drunkenness, revelries and the like, of which I tell you before hand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom. ” Our bodies are the _____ of God- so Paul instructs to start by keeping it clean!

8. When Paul was accused of not following the law, did he argue against or for it? _____. Acts 24:13-16 “Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me. But this I confess unto thee, that after The Way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.”

9. Let’s look at Romans 2 and let’s break it down! Does God care about circumcision of the heart and the flesh? _____. But which is more important? _____.

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[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=TN3_Y2DLC9E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN3_Y2DLC9E)