

WHY PAUL?

Because it pleased God to use Paul and Paul alone as the human agent through whom He would proclaim and reveal the present administration of the grace of God.

This grace is given to me (*who am* less than the least of all saints) to preach the gospel of the **unsearchable** riches of Christ among the nations, and to bring to light what *is* the fellowship (dispensation some versions) of the mystery which from eternity has been **hidden in God**, who created all things by Jesus Christ; Eph 3:8-9

We Gentiles have a relationship to Paul that we do not have to any other apostle. It is essential that we prayerfully seek to discover this relationship.

First and foremost, Paul was not, and could not be, one of the Twelve. The passage Acts 1:15-26 narrates the choosing of Matthias to replace Judas, and this was not conducted by ignorant men, but by those who had been instructed for 40 days by the risen victorious Saviour. He had also "opened" their understanding of the Scriptures, and so their actions were in accordance with them;

And He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms about Me. And He opened their mind to understand the Scriptures. Luk 24:44-45

.. He also presented Himself living after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them through forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Act 1:3

The ordination of Matthias took place approximately seven years before Paul's "conversion", but even this is not the complete answer to Paul's unsuitability. Paul was not divinely qualified to be one of the Twelve:-

Wherefore of these men which have accompanied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John unto the same day that He was taken up from us, must (of necessity) one be ordained to be a witness with us of His resurrection.

Acts 1:21

Peter is not uttering these words as one making mistakes, but [by the Holy Spirit] is remembering the old Testament passages which he now understands, and also the words of our Lord :-

And ye also shall bear witness because ye have been with me from the beginning. [John 15:27](#)

Paul did not possess these essential qualifications and could never be considered. The risen Lord appeared to Paul in due course, but Paul's ministry was twofold and quite removed from that of the Twelve. The Scriptures write Paul as the only apostle for us Gentiles.

.. I (Paul) have been entrusted with the gospel of the uncircumcision (Gentiles), as Peter to the circumcision (Jews); for He working in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision also worked in me to the nations. [Gal.2:7-8](#)

For I speak to you, the nations; since I am the apostle of the nations, I glorify my ministry; [Rom 11:13](#)

To this I am ordained a preacher and an apostle (I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie), a teacher of *the* nations, in faith and truth. [1Ti 2:7](#)

It might be worth noting here, that not long after the close of the New Testament era, the world entered 1500 years of spiritual darkness. This darkness resulted not because men turned away from the Lord, but they turned away from many great doctrines the Lord gave us Gentiles through Paul.

Many wonderful truths were lost for years by a gospel based on works, i.e. a wrongly divided Word [2Tim.2:15]. But worse still, not only were the great fundamental doctrines lost, but also the entire administration that our great God and Saviour had revealed for all mankind after Israel had been set aside.

This is why Paul is so important. If we wish to worship God in true spirit, if we wish to ascribe the Glory of Christ according to the present dispensation, we must listen to Paul.

It was stated earlier that Paul's ministry was twofold. That is, his ministry spanned two entirely different administrations.

The first ministry spanned nearly thirty (30) years from his conversion to the end of the book of the Acts. His journeys and messages were recorded in Acts and the seven (7) epistles written during that time.

The second ministry commenced at Acts 28:28 and continued until his martyrdom in Rome. During this time he also wrote seven (7) epistles, which alone contain the message freshly given him by the Ascended Lord. These 7 letters are very different indeed.\

One of the criticisms of Paul is that he is inconsistent. How could anyone believe a man who contradicts himself they reason. It is such a pity that Christendom cannot see these differences some of which are listed later.

Fourteen epistles constitutes over half of the New Testament and we divide these as a numerical exercise thus;- 2 x 7, yet the epistles divide themselves into the ministries shown above, not by the date written, but by the content of each one. Here are the two groups:-

1. Epistles written During the Acts Period - 1st ministry. The church Israel remained as God's People and channel. The church which is His body not revealed to Paul during this time. Galatians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Corinthians, Hebrews, Romans
2. Epistles written After the Acts Period -2nd Ministry. Israel cut off at Acts 28 and the church which is His body revealed to Paul. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Titus, Philemon, 1&2 Timothy.

We have to state quite plainly that "the church' did not begin at Pentecost. To demonstrate this would take us beyond the limits of the present purpose, but Israel were not cast away at the Cross. Neither at the fulfillment of the feast of weeks (Pentecost), but continued as God's covenanted people and channel right up to the end of the book of the Acts.

We submit one quote from Paul written some thirty (30) years after the cross:-

But to Israel He says, "All day long I have stretched forth My hands to a disobeying and gainsaying people." I say then, hath God cast away His people? God forbid (may it not become). For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew....Rom.10:21-11:1-2

The book of Acts is not an introductory account of the "true church", but is a continuation of Israel's history. The Church which is His Body is nowhere present or revealed during the many years covered by Acts 1 through to Acts 28. It cannot be found in any address recorded or epistle written during this time. This is why Paul's second group of Epistles is so important and so distinctly different from his first group.

Since this is designed as an introductory publication, set out below are some of the features which naturally divide Paul's letters.

Features of the Acts period ministry and epistles, Israel still God's people and channel.

1. Old Testament quotes approx. 200. [See Acts.26:22]
2. Pentecostal gifts abound. Paul's napkin used to transfer healing powers.[Acts 19:11-12, 28:9]
3. Believers all one in Christ but Jew 1st and Gentiles grafted into olive tree Israel and blessed with faithful Abraham. Roms.1:16 [Acts 3:26], Roms.11:17, 15:27
4. New Jerusalem anticipated as place of blessing. Gal.4:26, Hebs.11:10,16, 12:22 and 13:14. [This comes down to the Earth. Rev.21:1-2].

5. Christ is the Bridegroom. The New Jerusalem is the Bride, the Lamb's Wife. [Rev.21:9-10]. Believers espoused as chaste virgins to Christ. 2Cor.11:2.

6. Imminent "coming" [i.e. personal presence] of the Lord. He was shortly coming to them. Thus all property can be sold, do not get married. Roms.16:20 [Acts 4:32-34] 1 Cor.7:29-31, 1 Thess..4:17.

7. The Time associated with this period is "From the Foundation of the World". Hebs.4:3, 9:26. [cp. Matt.13:34.35, 25:34 and Lk.11:50].

Features of the post Acts epistles and ministry, The Church which is His Body God's new creation and channel.

1. Old Testament quotes - less than 10. Eph.3:3. Col.1:25-26.

2. Paul prays for the sick, leaves friends ill. No universal manifestation of gifts. 2Tim.4:20. Phils.2:26-27.

3. Believers all one in Christ but now total equality and all blessed in Christ. Abraham and Israel no longer a place of blessing until the day God closes this dispensation and resumes His purpose with them.

4. New Jerusalem not mentioned, believers blessed "in the above heavens" and raised and seated there.
Eph.1:3 & 2:6.

5. Christ is The Head and we are members of His Body. The Goal is a perfect man. Eph.1:22-23, 4:13.

6. The Lord's appearing in Glory is part of The Hope. They will go to Him. Paul advises to get married. Col.3:1-4, 1 Tim.5:14.

7. This company chosen "Before the Foundation of the World". Eph.1:4. Christ [the Head] the only other associated with this time. John.17:24, Phils.1:19.

These are mainly dispensational features and we readily admit that there are fundamental doctrines found everywhere in the Word of God e.g. Redemption by the Blood, the substitutionary sacrifice, the transfer of sins and righteousness. These features are common to all dispensations, for without them no-one could be saved.

Yet our Great God has placed certain companies of His redeemed in certain areas of responsibility and blessing. The confusion that abounds among believers today results from ignoring the dispensational differences, particularly evident in the 14 Epistles of Paul.

WHY PAUL?

**Because he and he alone was given the administration for us Gentiles today.
Ignore Paul's post Acts letters and we ignore dispensational truth for today.**

This leaflet was inspired by a tract "Why we believe in The Pauline Gospel" originally published by Philadelphia Bible Testimony.

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