

11-12-09

Even the Apostle Paul was Wrong!

www.godstimeline.net

In what aspect was the Apostle Paul wrong? First of all, let's take a look at Paul's (Saul's) credentials. We first hear of Saul/ Paul in Acts 7, with the trial and stoning of the disciple Stephen.

Acts 7: 49 **Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool:** what house will ye build me? **saith the Lord:** or what is the place of my rest?

50 Hath not my hand made all these things?

51 Ye **stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.**

52 Which **of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One;** of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

53 Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, **I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.**

57 Then they **cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears,** and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and **the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.**

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

8:1 And **Saul was consenting unto his death.** And **at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem;** and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

3 As **for Saul, he made havock of the church,** entering into every house, and **haling men and women committed them to prison.**

4 Therefore **they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.**

There is much in this passage, but I'm only covering primarily that which is in bold. It is that Stephen is on trial to the Sanhedrin/ the religious rulers of Israel. He is proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and WHO HE IS! However, in verses 51-2, Stephen tells them that they are no different than their fathers (predecessors) in that they are stiffnecked and resist the Holy Ghost concerning what the prophets were telling them **"of the coming of the Just One;"**! In other words, they resisted what God was telling them through His prophets **"OF THE COMING of the Messiah/ the Just One!**

What was it that they didn't want to hear? That the Just One/ Messiah was the one that they condemned to death on the cross. Why? Because, like their fathers, they taught and believed that the Messiah was only to come as KING and Political/ earthly Deliverer from their oppressors!

Now you can literally see the reaction of these religious rulers (of which Saul/ Paul was in attendance to) to the concept that their Messiah DID come, BUT NOT IN THE MANNER in which they taught and believed! So then what did they do when confronted with the truth of scripture to which Stephen was quoting concerning Christ?

They, **"cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears"!!**

Yeah, they literally put their hands over their ears like a little child throwing a tantrum, and saying, "I don't want to hear it, I don't want to hear it! This is not what we were taught or teach concerning the coming of our Messiah!"

Note: The vast majority of the "Church" is NO DIFFERENT TODAY!

When Stephen in this trial, quotes Moses, one of their most revered patriarchs you can see just how the blindness of the religious leaders was made manifest.

Acts 7: 37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

You see, they had to IGNORE this scripture (being willingly ignorant) and saying of Moses, because this also does not conform to what and how they wanted their Messiah to come to them! They didn't want a prophet, DELIVERER like unto Moses, because the prophet dealt with bad news and

showing God's condemnation to the Nation because of their sin! And of course, that they don't want to hear!

Now, since Saul/ Paul was there as a witness to the death of Stephen, it says that he: "And **Saul was consenting unto his death.**"

This means for Paul to consent to the death of Stephen, he had to also consent to the reason for Stephen's death! And that also means that Saul/ Paul also didn't want to hear the truth of Jesus Christ as being the Messiah!

And in fact was so inflamed (as the scripture says-"54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.") by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that he became the chief persecutor of the Church.

Now then, just what were Saul's/ Paul's educational credentials? Paul says of himself before his conversion:

Phil.3: 4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:
5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an **Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;**
6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Paul says in verse 4 that if there was ever anyone who should have had confidence "in his education"/ in the flesh, it should have been him? Why? Because in being fully a "Hebrew" (it is noteworthy that Paul here does not say "Jew") and as touching or concerning the law, a Pharisee or a teacher of the law was considered blameless by men in the righteousness in and of the doing of the law. But even Paul admits that his keeping of it was only in the "touching" of it. He knew he could not grasp hold of the law and Keep it.

Now then since Saul/ Paul was a Pharisee, a teacher of the Law, he would also be one of the teachers/ religious rulers who taught that the Messiah, when He comes would be coming to establish the 1000 year Kingdom age to Israel to where Israel will no longer be the tail (of nations in the world) but will then be the head of Nations!

From whom did Saul/ Paul receive his scriptural education? It was from the most respected or best teacher of the Scriptures of his time. A "doctor" of the law!

Acts 21: 3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet **brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God**, as ye all are this day.

4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

Yes, Saul/ Paul was taught at the feet of Gamaliel unto the perfect manner of the law! And Gamaliel was who?

Acts 5: 33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

34 Then stood there up one in the council, **a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people**, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;

35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.

Yes, Saul/ Paul was educated by the best. But what did he think of his great education?

Philippians 3: 5 **Circumcised the eighth day**, of the **stock of Israel**, of the **tribe of Benjamin**, an **Hebrew of the Hebrews**; **as touching the law, a Pharisee**;

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; **touching the righteousness which is in the law**, blameless.

These are the things to which Paul said that he should be so proud of! And of that is his education under Gamaliel in and of the LAW! BUT he says that he considers (and so does God BTW) His standing or position in Israel being circumcised (physically) a Jew and his education in the law ALL but...see following!

7 But **what things were gain to me, those I counted loss** for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and do count them but dung**, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 **That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection**, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 **If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.**

In today's vernacular, Paul basically said that all that he had attained in being a "Jew"- a "Hebrew of the Hebrews" a "Pharisee", a teacher of the law with this great education of the law under Gamaliel, was all nothing but CRAP if he didn't gain Jesus Christ and the knowledge of Him!

Note: I put in bold also the part of which Paul refers to knowing the power of Christ's resurrection! BUT notice that Paul was looking to attain the "RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD"!! Paul make no reference here of expecting to be "raptured" (of those who are alive and remaining at the time OF the resurrection"! And why NOT? Paul wrote to the Philippians in 60 A.D! Long after writing of the "rapture" in the epistles to both the Corinthians and the Thessalonians!

For people to say that Paul was expecting the "rapture" at the time that he wrote of it or even shortly thereafter, are being very disingenuous to Paul, Peter, and to God Himself! Because to say that Paul was expecting it in his lifetime would have to imply that Paul was IGNORANT of the scriptures or just plain stupid! The reason why I say this with confidence is that Paul DID KNOW the scriptures and taught of Jesus Christ being the fulfilling of the law by His death (Passover), burial (unleavened bread), RESURRECTION (First Fruits) and the empowering of the Church by the Spirit of Christ (Pentecost)! To know this, teach this, is to know of the fulfilling of Daniel's 69th week UNTO MESSIAH THE PRINCE! HOWEVER, Paul also knew and taught that it is the 2nd Coming and the Kingdom of his Lord which will bring forth the "resurrection of the dead"! BUT Paul KNEW and taught of the "prince that shall come" (the man of sin- A.C.)! And to say that Paul was then IGNORANT of the simple fact that Daniel prophesied that the PEOPLE of that prince which shall come shall destroy the CITY and THE SANCTUARY of which Jesus Himself taught of, is like I said being very disingenuous of His scholarship and revelations of the Word of God by the Holy Spirit to him!

Why? Because as long as the temple was standing, the CITY NOT DESTROYED and the Nation of Israel (FIG TREE) had not been dispersed into all nations, the 2nd Coming of Christ COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED! Of course Paul knew this because there was still AN ISRAEL, THE CITY, and

THE TEMPLE!! And like I pointed out, when he wrote to the Corinthians, Thessalonians, and now the Philippians (60 A.D.) these were all still there!

And by the way, where in the scriptures (N.T.) is the “lamenting/ crying unto the Lord” for the Lord to “rapture” them out of the world? The case of 2nd Thessalonians for this does not hold up. For they were worried that they had missed it (not that they were crying for it- big difference)! And it really bothers me to see and or hear of so called Christians crying for their escape (rapture) and in the same breath saying that they don’t care about those left behind and that they can go to hell (burn) for all they care! Where is the love of Christ in statements like this? All they are saying in effect is “Lord come and get me, I have mine, destroy everybody else”! Don’t they realize the following?

2nd peter 3: 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

15 And account that **the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation**; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

I sure hope and pray that anyone with this selfish and self-centered heart and mindset has no family or friends/ neighbors who are unsaved or even questionable! Because:

1st John 4: 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**

17 Herein **is our love made perfect**, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: **because as he is, so are we in this world.**

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If **a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar**: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

Aren’t we told to love our enemies and to pray for them? If one strongly believes that the Lord’s Coming is as soon as they think and they preach of His 2nd Coming and Kingdom, wouldn’t they be preaching the Gospel of the kingdom unto Salvation? For TODAY is the DAY OF Salvation! We, they are fast running out of time!

Now back to Paul's credentials.

The Lord Jesus Christ knew just how necessary it was for Paul to have this vast education in the law, and to be of the religious rulers (a Pharisee)! It is because of Paul's standing in Israel and his education that he could go before the Jews and be able to gain audience from them! Paul was one of their own! But just like Peter, James and John, Stephen who had no so called formal education in the law/ Word of God/ Theology etc. they did not want to hear (vast majority) what Paul was preaching concerning the Messiah which they condemned to the cross! See the response of the religious leaders of the day!

Acts 4: 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, **Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,**

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, **and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men,** they marvelled; and **they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.**

In verse 8 is context to whom John and Peter are before. And as they are giving an account of what they believe, they were perceived (they knew this as fact) that they had no formal education in the scriptures and therefore ignorant of them. But then the realization of who they were and that they had been with and taught by this Jesus who was a rabbi Himself! These things combined made it very convenient for the rulers to dismiss what they were saying out of hand!

Now here is the point of the Title of this article!

Saul/ Paul went before his fellow rulers preaching in the Temple and in the synagogues, before he went off to be the apostle to the gentiles! And it is certain, that while preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to his fellow rulers and those to whom he had previously taught from the law, there rose the question, "What are you saying"? "I have never heard you teach of the Messiah like this"!

AND IT IS OF NO QUESTION IN MY MIND, THAT PAUL HAD TO APOLOGISE AND TELL THEM THAT WHAT HE WAS TAUGHT AND HAD TAUGHT HIMSELF CONCERNING THE COMING OF THEIR MESSIAH WAS WRONG! OR AT THE VERY LEAST, NOT ENTIRELY CORRECT!!

The same is true today as we approach the Kingdom and the 2nd Coming of Christ! You find the same supposedly highly educated religious leaders teaching the same doctrine(s) concerning the “end times”, “last days” and knowing that there is something amiss to what they are and have taught in the past.

So, what is their problem? Why are so many “pastors” and teachers of Bible “prophecy” seemingly WITHOUT A CLUE?

So many do not want to follow God’s Word as to how God will fulfill it. Instead they rely on their “education” and that which they have been taught from their youth and or the doctrinal position of the school to which they got this great degree! Where is their humility in their so called education?

However the Lord warned of Jesus’ time and as well as now:

Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,
Rom 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

I believe that the answers to these questions are simple.

First of all, for them to admit that they are and have been wrong in the past to what they are teaching and have taught in the past is to jeopardize their “FAN BASE” or “Congregation” and “ministry support”! Yes, it boils down to, pride, power and MONEY!!!

Secondly, for those pastors or teachers not directly connected with a prophetic ministry, it is so much easier to fall back on the old doctrine of Imminence (that Jesus can come for the Church at ANY TIME during the church age) and be regurgitating a lie to their congregation(s) that:

Matt.24: 35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

They think that this mindset taken out of context (because how many times is verse 36 quoted to you without verse 35?) gives them the excuse to NOT be watchful of the times in which they are living! And of course they pass on this bad teaching to their congregations! And at the same time expunging themselves from the responsibility of pastors and teachers to study at least somewhat what the prophetic scriptures say! Let’s face it, 1/3 of the Bible is prophetic in its nature! Therefore their congregations remain blind to the

times they are in and will not know when their Lord does come! That is why so many Christians have no interest in the times in which we are in! THEY ARE TAUGHT NOT TO!

So yes, “Even the Apostle Paul was Wrong” in what he was taught concerning the coming of Israel’s Messiah! It took the direct intervention/ revelation of Jesus to Saul/ Paul for him to “see the light”! And the errors of his teachings!

In Looking of Christ’s Coming and Kingdom:
Phil Rogers