

# "Paulianity" Versus Christianity

-- a collation of *Paul Quek*

"Paul... did not desire to know Christ.... Paul shows us with what complete indifference the earthly life of Jesus was regarded.... What is the significance for our faith and for our religious life, the fact that the Gospel of Paul is different from the Gospel of Jesus?.... The attitude which Paul himself takes up towards the Gospel of Jesus is that he does not repeat it in the words of Jesus, and does not appeal to its authority.... The fateful thing is that the Greek, the Catholic, and the Protestant theologies *all contain the Gospel of Paul in a form which does not continue the Gospel of Jesus, but displaces it.*"

-- **Albert Schweitzer**, *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*

"There is not one word of Pauline Christianity in the characteristic utterances of Jesus.... There has really never been a more monstrous imposition perpetrated than the imposition of Paul's soul upon the soul of Jesus.... It is now easy to understand how the Christianity of Jesus... was suppressed by the police and the Church, while Paulinism overran the whole western civilized world, which was at that time the Roman Empire, and was adopted by it as its official faith."

-- **George Bernard Shaw**, *Androcles and the Lion*

"Paul was the first corrupter of the doctrines of Jesus."

-- **Thomas Jefferson**

"True Christianity, which will last forever, comes from the gospel words of Christ, not from the epistles of Paul. The writings of Paul have been a danger and a hidden rock, the causes of the principal defects of Christian theology."

-- **Ernest Renan**, *Saint Paul*

"If one may be allowed to speak rather pointedly the Apostle Paul was the only Arch-Heretic known to the apostolic age."

-- **Walter Bauer**, *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Earliest Christianity*

"In the teachings of Christ, religion is completely present tense: Jesus is the prototype and our task is to imitate him, become a disciple. But then through Paul came a basic alteration. Paul draws attention away from imitating Christ and fixes attention on the death of Christ The Atoner. What Martin Luther, in his reformation, failed to realize is that even before Catholicism, Christianity had become degenerate at the hands of Paul. Paul made Christianity the religion of Paul, not of Christ. Paul threw the Christianity of Christ away, completely turning it upside down, making it just the opposite of the original proclamation of Christ."

-- **Soren Kierkegaard**, *The Journals*

"The oblivious contradictions in the three accounts given by Paul in regard to his conversion are enough to arouse distrust.... The moral majesty of Jesus, his purity and piety, his ministry among his people, his manner as a prophet, the whole concrete ethical-religious content of his earthly life, signifies for Paul's Christology nothing whatever.... The name 'disciple of Jesus' has little applicability to Paul.... Jesus or Paul: this alternative characterizes, at least in part, the religious and theological warfare of the present day."

-- **William Wrede**, *Paul*

"It is most obvious that Paul does not appeal to the words of the Lord in support of his ... views. When the essentially Pauline conceptions are considered, it is clear that Paul is not dependent on Jesus. Jesus' teaching is -- to all intents and purposes -- irrelevant for Paul."

-- **Rudolf Bultman**, *Significance of the Historical Jesus for the Theology of Paul*

"... every teaching of Jesus was already in the literature of the day.....[Yet] Paul, the founder of Christianity, the writer of half the NT, almost never quotes Jesus in his letters and writings."

-- **Professor Smith**, *The World Religions*, p 330

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"The Christianity which the nations claim to follow is the religion of Paul, who is

admittedly the chief and almost the only theologian that the Church recognizes. Because of his betrayal of the Master's teachings, the vision of true Christianity has been so dimmed that men have been able to defend war and a host of other evils, such as flesh eating and slavery, on the authority of the Bible."

-- **Rev. V.A. Holmes-Gore**, *Christ or Paul?*

"Let the reader contrast the true Christian standard with that of Paul and he will see the terrible betrayal of all that the Master taught.... For the surest way to betray a great Teacher is to misrepresent his message.... That is what Paul and his followers did, and because the Church has followed Paul in his error it has failed lamentably to redeem the world.... The teachings given by the blessed Master Christ, which the disciples John and Peter and James, the brother of the Master, tried in vain to defend and preserve intact were as utterly opposed to the Pauline Gospel as the light is opposed to the darkness."

-- **Rev. V.A. Holmes-Gore**, *Christ or Paul?*

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"... Paul, the self-proclaimed Apostle, violently opposed the original vegetarian Essene Christianity of Jesus, first by killing and imprisoning its leaders, then by infiltrating the movement and leading a schism. The schism led by Paul -- a meat-eating version of Christianity -- replaced the teachings of Jesus with the teachings of Paul."

-- **Rev. Brother Nazariah, D.D.**, *Yahshua or Paul?*  
*Essene Christianity versus Paulianity*

"... **"Paulianity"** evolved into the Roman Catholic Church and gave birth to all of what is considered mainstream Christianity today, Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant."

-- **Rev. Brother Nazariah, D.D.**, *Yahshua or Paul?*  
*Essene Christianity versus Paulianity*



## PAUL'S CHRIST MYSTICISM

According to Paul, the Messiah's high priestly function is that as God's ambassador he has atoned for the sins of his people and now he acts as intercessor, sitting at the right hand of God. This is how we may understand the mystery mentioned in **Hebrews 7:25**: "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives **to intercede** for them."

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The Jews awaited a redeemer and "the redemption of Jerusalem" (**Luke 1:68** and **2:38**). Paul wrote of this mystery: "It is **in him** that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God -- that is, our righteousness, holiness and **redemption**" (**1 Corinthians 1:30**). "We have **redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of his grace" (**Ephesians 1:7**). "**In him** we have **redemption**, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (**Colossians 1:14-15**). And all "are justified freely by his grace **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**" (**Romans 3:24**).

### The Expression 'in Christ Jesus'

The heart of Paul's Christ mysticism is linked with a secret union which we experience as believers in identifying with our Saviour. This preposition "**in**", which emphasizes the believer's commitment to Jesus, also appears in the individual expressions "**in Jesus**", "**in Christ**", "**in him**", "**in the blood of Jesus**", "**in the Holy Spirit**", "**in the Spirit**" or, for example, "**in the love of Christ**".

If one follows these phrases on the computer, one notes that they appear over one hundred and fifty times in Paul's letters. Jews too speak a lot of the concept "*dveikut*" or "bond" -- the believer is, as it were, "*davud*" or "glued" or "joined" to the will of God. Faith engenders such "intimacy". Already in his Areiopagus sermon (**Acts 17:28**) Paul had said that "**in him we live and move and have our being.**"

Paul writes, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**" (**Romans 8:1**). To Andronicus and Junias in Rome, his relatives and companions in prison, who **had been "in Christ" before him**, he sends his greetings (**Romans 16:7**). "If anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation" (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). "Do you not realise that **Jesus Christ is in you?**" (**2 Corinthians 13:5**). "Now **in Christ** ... you have been brought near **in the blood of Christ**" (**Ephesians 2:13**). "**In him** we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (**Colossians 1:14** and **Ephesians 1:7**). "Rejoice **in the Lord** always " (**Philippians 4:4**). "I can do all things **in him** who gives me strength" (**Philippians 4:13**). And "the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy **in the Holy Spirit**" (**Romans 14:17**).

Paul's union with Christ was reflected in his letters as *images taken from life*: He spoke of believers as "God's *building*", the "*temple*" of the Holy Spirit and "*the body* of Christ", in which we "are built as God's *dwelling in the Spirit*." "We are God's *fellow-workers*; you are God's *field*, God's *building*" (**1 Corinthians 3:9**). "You are fellow-citizens with the saints and God's *family*, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with *Christ Jesus himself as the chief corner-stone*. **In him** the whole *building* is joined together and rises to become a *holy temple in the Lord*. And **in him** you too are being built as *God's dwelling in the Spirit*" (**Ephesians 2:19-22**). "Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple and that **God's Spirit lives in you**? If anyone destroys *God's temple*, God will destroy him; for *God's temple* is sacred, and you are that temple"(**1 Corinthians 3:16-17**). "Do you not know that your body is a *temple of the Holy Spirit*, who **is in you**, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body"(**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**). "We who are many are *one body in Christ*, and each member belongs to all the others"(**Romans 12:5**). "You are *the body of Christ* and each one of you his *members*" (**1 Corinthians 12:27, 1 Corinthians 6:15, Ephesians 1:23, 5:30** etc). It was on these concepts that Paul based his message to the churches.

The Essenes spoke at that time of the "deceitful" and "fleshly impulse" (*yetzer remiya and yetzer basar*); Paul too used similar terms. "*Our old man*" is crucified through Christ; "the natural man" does not receive what is of God's Spirit; "*in our inner man*" we agree with God's Law; God lets us be strengthened "*in our inner man*"; "although *our outer man* dies, yet *the inner one* is being renewed day by day"; you must put off "*your old man*" and "be renewed in your minds from the Spirit and put on the "*new man*"; you "have taken off the *old man*"; "*God's man*" should flee from sin, so that "God's man might be perfect, ready for all good works." *All this is possible only in Christ*. "If anyone is **in Christ**, he is a *new creation*" (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

Therefore Paul exhorts believers, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but *be transformed* (in Greek "*metamorphousthe*") by the renewing of your mind" (**Romans 12:2**).

Although then Paul taught pessimistically that there is nothing good in man himself, *he assumed, however, that through his Holy Spirit God changes those who believe in him*. This "*metamorphosis*" or "change of shape" is entirely God's work. In 2 Cor. 3:18 he says that "we" who look at the Lord's glory "are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." Paul used of "repentance" a word which describes its nature - "*metanoia*" or "*change of mind*". Man is indeed "at the same time a sinner and justified" and only in eternity is our essential wretchedness stripped away. Man's earthen make-up does not change. "Our old man" lives side by side with "the new man", as once famous Siamese twins had to suffer each other: one of them had an inclination towards alcohol, the other enjoyed more spiritual interests.

*The Essenes believed they could conquer the evil dwelling in them by ever stricter fasting and good works*. Paul did not trust in his own strength. However, he was "*confident* of this, that he who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (**Philippians 1:6**). *It was this change of mind, being in Christ, walking in the Spirit and firm trust in God's grace that represented Paul's spiritual realism and his Christ mysticism*. In **Colossians 1** he speaks of "the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations"; and "the glorious riches of this mystery, which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory*" (**Colossians 1:26-27**). Here there are perhaps, as Peter said, some things difficult to understand, yet it is real and it works.

-- <http://www.kolumbus.fi/hjussila/rsla/Paul/paul17.html>

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"After Jesus's time, there came to be two sects of Christians: those who followed St. Paul (who is the real founder of modern Christianity) and those who followed the Apostles of Jesus. In course of time, the Pauline sect overshadowed the Apostles' sect. So Paul's own writings, as well as the Gospels written under his influence, came to be accepted by the later Christian Church as Scripture."

-- <http://www.islamonline.net/askaboutislam/display.asp?hquestionID=8061>

"Irenaeus believed in One God and supported the doctrine of the manhood of Jesus. He bitterly criticized Paul for being responsible for injecting doctrines of the pagan religions and Platonic philosophy into Christianity."

-- **Muhammad Ataur-Raheem**, *Jesus Prophet of Islam*, 1992 edition, p. 77

"Paul's reasoning had two major consequences. It not only resulted in further changes being made to what Jesus had taught, but also prepared the way for completely changing people's ideas of who Jesus was. He was being transformed from a man to a conception in people's minds. Divinity had been attributed to Jesus even when he was on earth by some of those who marveled at his words and miracles, and who, mistakenly, considered him to be more than a prophet. Some of his enemies had also spread the rumor that he was the "son of God", hoping to rouse the orthodox Jew's anger against him for associating himself with God. Thus, even before he disappeared, there had been a tendency to obscure his true nature and ascribe godhood to Jesus. This imaginary figure of Christ, who apparently had the power to annul what Jesus had previously taught, was clearly no ordinary mortal, and, inevitably, became confused by many with God. Thus, this imaginary figure became an object of worship, and was associated with God."

-- **Muhammad Ataur-Raheem**

"Saul/Paul had set out initially to subvert Jesus' teachings. Later he used his new doctrines to undermine the power of the Jewish church as well as the defied Roman Emperor. Paul sought to torpedo Judaism in its calcified form, its narrow interpretation of the Judaic law. Jesus had initiated this process but did not

subvert the law. Paul had no such inhibitions; he rejected wholesale many fundamental laws of God. In the attempt Paul succeeded in undermining both the Jewish and Nazarene teachings. He steered Christ's teachings away from monotheism and from the Jews, (the lost sheep of Israel) and directed these teachings in a corrupted form to Non-Jews...As Jesus had not succeeded during his mission in converting the majority of his Jewish brothers and sister to his divinely inspired interpretations of Judaism, Paul ensured that after Jesus had departed, that Jews would not be tempted to follow Jesus' Teachings. To this end, Paul so adulterated Jesus' life, purpose, mission and claims to make the new dogma (Paul's version of Jesus' teachings) repugnant to the Jews."

-- **Farouk Hosein**, Fundamentalism Revisited, Eniath's Printing Company Trinidad, p. 49