

Peter vs Paul

When you study the Bible dispensationally, you are always aware of who a particular passage was written to (including what era), by whom, the reason the author had for writing, and what the result of writing the passage was.

One of the debates by members of the Church, the Body of Christ, is whether or not we are to follow what Jesus (and His disciples) said when He was on earth, or to follow what Paul—the apostle to the Gentiles—told us that he had learned from Jesus.

Paul was very clear. He received new commandments and revelation from the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:37

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Paul had been given new information by the Lord Jesus Christ that had not been given to anyone else before Paul. That mystery was that Christ's death had saved Gentiles as well as Jews.

Everyone who believed in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection for their salvation was saved and sealed until the Adoption.

Ephesians 3:1-7

For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for **you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;** (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand **my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;** That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: **Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.**

Paul had gotten new instructions from Christ Jesus about this new gospel, and he was to teach it in every church.

1 Corinthians 4:15-17

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: **for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.** Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of **my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.**

Paul was following Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

And we are to follow Paul.

Galatians 1:1

Paul, **an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father,** who raised him from the dead;)

We are very familiar with the 12 apostles that Jesus chose to follow Him during His earthly ministry. Many churches teach that we, too,

should follow the things that Christ taught His apostles. But is that really right?

Paul spent a lot of time trying to teach people the mystery. God was taking His message of salvation straight to the Gentiles. The Jews rejected their Messiah and King, so God temporarily set them aside to work directly with the Gentiles. Jewish individuals could still be saved, but it was under God's mystery program revealed to Paul.

Romans 11:11-14

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but **rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles**, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? **For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.**

We will take a look at what Peter (the leader of Jesus' apostles to the Jews) preached, and compare it to what Paul, Jesus' apostle to the Gentiles preached. You will see that these men had completely different gospels.

#1 Prophecy (Peter) vs Mystery (Paul)

The Jews always had prophets that God would communicate with, who would then be responsible to tell the people God's message.

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

God would raise up a prophet and tell him what to tell the people. There were people who would pretend to receive messages from God for the people. God killed the false prophets.

Deuteronomy 18:18, 20

I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and **will put my words**

in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

²⁰But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

Paul's entire message had been a mystery. No man knew about God's message to the Gentiles, until Jesus Christ revealed it to Paul. Paul explained it to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 3:1-7

For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that **by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;** (as I wrote afore in few words, **Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**) **Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men,** as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers

of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Following is Paul's explanation to the Colossians.

Colossians 1:24-27

Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, **which is the church: Whereof I am made a minister,** according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; **Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:** To whom God would make known what is the riches of **the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles;** which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

#2 Law (Peter) vs Grace (Paul)

The 613 parts of the Law, starting with the 10 Commandments, was given by God, to Moses, to give to the people of Israel, the Jews. They were

required to follow the Law in order to show their faith. God promised to bless them abundantly if they obeyed Him.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

And it shall come to pass, **if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:** And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

God also told them that He would curse them with a long list of curses if they did not obey Him.

Deuteronomy 28:15

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Following the Law was required to show your faith. James wrote to the Jews going through the Tribulation.

James 2:24

Ye see then how **that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**

Jesus made it clear to the rich, young ruler who asked Him how he could have eternal life. Jesus said to enter into eternal life, he needed to follow the commandments.

Matthew 19:16-17

And, behold, one came and said unto him, **Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?** And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: **but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.**

But Paul tells the Galatians what appears to be the exact opposite of what James told the Jews. You can't be justified by following the Law.

Galatians 3:11

But that **no man is justified by the law in the sight of God**, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Paul's message to the Gentiles was that following the Law would never justify a person. The purpose of the Law was to show a person their sin, and need for a savior. It is faith in Jesus Christ as your redeemer, that saves a person.

Romans 3:20-23

Therefore **by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.** But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; **Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Repetition in the Bible is a sign of something important. In the following verse, Paul says it twice: no one can be justified by the works of the Law.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and **not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**

Paul tells it to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

You see how different the message from Jesus and His disciples is, from the message that Jesus told Paul to give to the Church? Why the difference? Before the crucifixion, everyone was dead to sin. After the crucifixion, everyone's sin was forgiven. There was no need for animal sacrifices when Jesus had paid the price for everyone. Now what was left was for each person to accept the forgiveness—believe in the Lord Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, for salvation.

“Endure to the end” (Peter) vs saved and sealed (Paul)

The Holy Ghost seals each believer today and places him into the Church, the Body of Christ. We are sealed until the day of redemption—the Adoption.

After the Adoption of the Church, Jews will again be required to follow the Law to show their faith. Jesus told them that, even during the Tribulation when they would be persecuted, they would have to “endure to the end” to be saved.

Matthew 24:9-13

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

The reason is that the nation of Israel has not yet accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her savior. It will not be until the Lord comes to set up His Kingdom of Heaven on the Earth, will the nation, as a whole, be forgiven.

Acts 3:19-21

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, **that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ,** which before was preached unto you: Whom the **heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things,** which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Until then, individual Jews can be saved, but only if they accept the forgiveness that comes from the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection, as part of the Church, the Body of Christ. Once we accept it, our forgiveness is permanent. We do not have to "endure to the end" to be saved. Paul writes about our forgiveness in past tense. It has already happened.

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

2 Timothy 1:9

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as **God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

#3 Second coming (Peter) vs the Adoption (Paul)

The Jews are still waiting for Christ to come to earth, defeat Satan and his forces, gather all the Jews together, and set up the Kingdom of Heaven on the Earth with Himself as King.

Revelation 19:11-16

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

The Kingdom on Earth with Jesus, the son of David, as King was prophesied by many prophets. Jesus came to earth to set up His Kingdom, but the Jewish leaders rejected Him. The Jews are still waiting for the Kingdom of Heaven on the Earth.

Jeremiah 33:15-17

In those days, and at that time, will I cause **the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.** In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith **she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness. For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;**

The Church, the Body of Christ does not appear in prophecy, so nothing about us appears in the Old Testament. Our gathering, the Adoption, was a mystery—first revealed to Paul

1 Corinthians 15:51

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

Our gathering will be much different than Israel's. Jesus Christ will descend from heaven to the clouds and bring believers who have already died, with Him. He will then gather all of the believers who are alive on this earth. Our bodies

will be changed and we will ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

The Church will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord as His body. Israel will spend eternity on earth with the Lord as king and redeemer.

#4 Baptism

“Repent and be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost” (Peter) vs Baptism by hearing the word, and indwelt by the Holy Ghost (Paul)

Peter’s message to the Jews at Pentecost was to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to receive the Holy Ghost. This was not a water baptism, but a baptism of belief in the Lord Jesus as their redeemer and king.

Acts 2:37-38

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

Jesus Himself, told the Jews to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, acknowledging their repentance for rejecting all three persons of the Godhead. Jesus called it “this gospel of the kingdom.”

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Paul specifically says that Jesus Christ sent him *not* to baptize. He was to preach the gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord. Paul also explains why. If sins could be forgiven by baptism, then the death of Christ would have no effect on us! We are saved only by the power of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

1 Corinthians 1:17-18

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that

perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Paul outlined the steps to our salvation. We hear the word of truth, the gospel about Jesus, we believe it, and then we are sealed until the redemption!

Ephesians 1:13-14

In whom ye also trusted, after **that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption** of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

#5 Apostle to Jews only (Peter) vs Apostle to Gentiles (Paul)

Paul makes a clear distinction between Peter and himself. Peter was given the gospel (of the kingdom) to take to the Jews—the circumcision. Paul was given the gospel to take to the Gentiles—the uncircumcision.

Galatians 2:7-9

But contrariwise, when they saw that **the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)**

And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, **they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.**

Paul's gospel had been a mystery since the world began and which Jesus Himself had revealed to Paul after Jesus' ascension.

Romans 16:25

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and **the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,**

Peter learned about this mystery from Paul. He admits that it is sometimes hard to understand, but Peter accepts Paul's gospel as he does the other scriptures. This is strong evidence that Peter and Paul did not preach the same gospel. Peter had to learn Paul's gospel from Paul!

2 Peter 3:15-16

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; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood,** which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Jesus had told Peter and the other apostles that they were to go to the Jews only, not the Gentiles, or even to the Samaritans, who were half Jewish.

Matthew 10:5-6

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the**

Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Paul was instructed by Jesus, specifically to go to the Gentiles.

Romans 11:13

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as **I am the apostle of the Gentiles**, I magnify mine office:

2 Timothy 1:11

Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Paul was given the gospel that was a mystery, so he was responsible for teaching it to his fellow Jews, too. Remember, even Peter had difficulty understanding the mystery at first.

Acts 9:15-16

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

#6 Since the foundation (Peter) vs before the foundation (Paul)

The Bible tells us that the prophecy program (for Israel) was prepared from the foundation of the world. The mystery program for the Church was prepared before the world began!

Jesus told the Jews that His kingdom had been prepared and planned for the Jews from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 25:34

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

The registry of the Jews who will enter Christ's kingdom is called the book of life. The names were written there from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:8

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written **in the book of**

life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 13:34-35

All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, **I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.**

Jesus told Paul that the Church was set up in Christ before the foundation of the world!

Ephesians 1:4

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Paul wrote to Timothy that the salvation and calling of the Church, the Body of Christ, had been planned before the world began.

2 Timothy 1:9

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

#7 Kingdom of Heaven on the earth (Peter) vs Kingdom of Heaven (Paul)

The Jews have been promised the kingdom of heaven on the earth with Christ, the son of David, as their king. Solomon built the temple for God to be able to dwell with His people on the earth. There was a condition on God dwelling with them. They were to walk in God's Law. That didn't happen!

2 Chronicles 6:16-18

Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, **There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me.** Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou hast spoken unto thy servant

David. **But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth?** behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

The Jews also rejected the kingdom on Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem as a king. Now, they must wait until Christ comes again on a white horse to defeat Satan and set up His kingdom. The Jews will rule the world as priests and kings.

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.**

After the 1,000 year reign of Christ as King, the holy city of Jerusalem will come down out of heaven to the earth, and Christ will rule the world from there. There will be no temple, or sun, or moon, or night. The gates will never shut.

Revelation 21:21-25

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and **the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.** And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

The Church, the Body of Christ will also reign with Christ.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, **we shall also reign with him:** if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

We will be the principalities and powers in heavenly places

Ephesians 3:9-11

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: **To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church** the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Our house, dwelling is eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, **we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

Our hope is laid up for us in heaven.

Colossians 1:4-5

Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, **For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;**