

*Are You Fighting with the Apostle Paul,
Peter and even Christ Himself?*

The Apostle Paul Speaks Out on Pentecost!

Was Paul guilty of following the Pharisees instead of Christ? That is *exactly* what some end-time preachers seem to think!

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All the remnant churches of God, it seems – except Triumph Prophetic Ministries (Church of God) – count Pentecost from the weekly Sunday which occurs in the seven days of Unleavened Bread, although when the Feast begins on a Sunday, some wait till the Sunday after the Feast to begin the count.

In essence, they follow the custom of the ancient SADDUCEES in this regard, assuming they were right in their calculations and practice.

However, the Pharisees did not concur. They counted Pentecost from the day after the FIRST HIGH SABBATH DAY of Unleavened Bread – or Nisan 16.

The RAGING Pentecost Battle

Josephus, himself a Pharisee, in the first century, tells us:

“But on the second day of unleavened bread, which is the 16th day of the month, they first partake of the fruits of the earth, for before that day they do not touch them. . . . They offer the first-fruits of their barley . . . and after this it is that they may publicly or privately reap their harvest. They also at this participation of the first-fruits of the earth, sacrifice a lamb, as a burnt-offering to God.

“6. When a week of weeks has passed over after this sacrifice, (which week contains forty and nine days,) on the fiftieth day, which is PENTECOST, *but is called by the Hebrews Asartha*, which signifies PENTECOST, they bring to God a loaf . . .” (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, bk.III, x, 5-6).

This controversy raged until the destruction of the Temple and the passing of the Sadducees in 70 A.D.

The controversy is discussed by Alfred Edersheim in his book *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services* –

“The expression ‘the morrow after the Sabbath’ (Lev.23:11), has sometimes been misunderstood as implying that the presentation of the so-called ‘first sheaf’ was to be always made on the day following the weekly Sabbath of the Passover-week. This view, adopted by the ‘Boethusians’ and the Sadducees in the time of Christ, and by the Karaite Jews and certain modern interpreters, rests on a misinterpretation of the word ‘Sabbath’ (Lev.23:24, 32, 39). As in analogous allusions to other feasts in the same chapter, it means not the weekly Sabbath, but the day of the festival. The testimony of Josephus . . . of Philo . . . and of Jewish tradition leaves NO ROOM TO DOUBT that in this instance we are to understand by the ‘Sabbath’ the 15th of Nisan, on whatever day of the week it may fall” (p.203-204).

As Edersheim noted, many facetious arguments have been raised to contradict the practice and ruling of the Pharisees on this subject. Who is right?

What does the apostle Paul have to say on this issue? On whose side would he weigh in?

A Close-Up View of the Apostle Paul

The apostle Paul wrote more Scripture in the New Testament than any other writer. Whose example – whose teaching – did he follow?

The apostle Paul, of course, was a Pharisee. As a strict Pharisee, all his life he observed Pentecost on the same day as all the Pharisees did – normally on Sivan 6 – counting 50 days from the day of the wave sheaf offering, which the Pharisees offered the day after the first High Holy Day of Passover.

Paul, who himself was a Pharisee, was brought up and taught at the feet of the leading Pharisee of his day, Gamaliel. Paul says, “I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city of 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” (Acts 22:3).

The word translated “PERFECT” here in the Greek is *akribeia* and means “exactness, perfect manner.” Says *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon*, it means “in accordance with the

strictness of the Mosaic law.” Paul was taught the Law of Moses in a very strict manner.

“Perfect Manner of the Law”

Says the Amplified Parallel Bible in this verse: “At the feet of Gamaliel I was educated according to the strictest care in the Law of our fathers, being ardent [even a zealot] for God, as all of you are today.” Gamaliel was the leading Pharisee teacher of that generation, and Paul was his direct pupil learning the Torah from him.

Those churches today who follow the Sadducean Pentecost reckoning make a LIAR out of the apostle Paul,

Paul says he was taught the Law of God perfectly, as a Pharisee, at the feet of the leading Pharisee of that day, Gamaliel, then he is really saying he was taught correctly concerning Pentecost calculation and observation! If the Pharisees were wrong, that this statement of Paul's would be an out-and-out LIE or FALSEHOOD!

On another occasion, Paul said to the Sanhedrin or Supreme Court or Council of the Jewish nation, “Men and brethren, *I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee*” (Acts 23:6). Paul obviously was not embarrassed to have been a Pharisee – he boasted of it! Like all the Pharisees, he believed in the hope of the resurrection (Acts 23:6). The apostate Sadducees, however, denied the truth of the resurrection! (Acts 23:7-9).

The Pharisees counted Pentecost beginning with the second day of Unleavened Bread!

Paul was a Pharisee, taught by Gamaliel, so he counted it the SAME WAY!

Many end-time ministers say this is WRONG – HERESY! These end-time churches which came out of the Worldwide Church of God all follow the SADDUCEES’ RECKONING!

Who is right?

Paul was “Blameless”

Paul wrote to the Philippians about his religious training and upbringing. He declared, “If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 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; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; TOUCHING THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS IN THE LAW, *BLAMELESS*” (Philippians 3:4-6).

But how could this be? If the Pharisees were IN ERROR on Pentecost and its calculation, then Paul could not have been “blameless” as concerns the Law of God, the divine instructions for Pentecost! If the Sadducean reckoning was correct, then the Pharisees had to be wrong, making Paul himself in error, and certainly NOT “blameless”! Therefore, did Paul

LIE when he made this clear and obvious declaration?

The Greek word for “blameless” here is *amemptos* and means, “irreproachable, faultless, unblameable.” Notice that definition again – “IRREPROACHABLE, FAULTLESS, UNBLAMEABLE.”

Thayer’s Greek English Lexicon defines the word, “**blameless, deserving no censure; free from fault or defect.**”

The same word is used in Luke 1:6 of the parents of John the Baptist: “And they were both *righteous* before God, walking in *all the commandments* and ordinances of the Lord BLAMELESS.”

Obviously, they observed Pentecost as did the apostle Paul on Sivan 6, reckoning it like the Pharisees did!

Would You FIGHT with the Apostle Paul?

Was Paul a “LIAR”? We have a conundrum here – a paradox. If the off-shoots of the Worldwide Church of God are correct in observing Pentecost following the Sadducean method of counting from the day after the weekly Sabbath during the days of Unleavened Bread – the method of the SADDUCEES – and therefore observe a different day than the apostle PAUL – then they are virtually calling the apostle Paul a LIAR when he says he observed the Law of God BLAMELESS as one who was a Pharisee and counted from the day after the PASSOVER first high holy day!

Therefore, the various Churches of God which came out of the debacle and apostasy of the Worldwide Church of God, by following the Sadducees, are in effect saying that the apostle Paul must have been deluded, deranged, sadly mistaken, and an out-and-out despicable LIAR when he claimed that he obeyed God’s Law in a faultless, irreproachable, blameless manner!

This applies to the United Church of God, the Philadelphia Church of God, the Intercontinental Church of God, the Living Church of God – *you name it!*

“IMITATE ME” – Real SOURCE of Paul’s Gospel

Paul tells us plainly, “IMITATE ME, *just as I also imitate Christ*” (I Cor.11:1). Or, as the Amplified Parallel Bible has it, “PATTERN YOURSELVES AFTER ME (FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE), AS I IMITATE AND FOLLOW CHRIST (THE MESSIAH)”!!!

Paul clearly claimed, and wrote, AS SCRIPTURE which cannot be broken (John 10:35), “Moreover, brethren, I DECLARE TO YOU THE GOSPEL which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, IF YOU HOLD FAST *the word that I preached to you* – unless you believed in vain. For I DELIVERED TO YOU FIRST OF ALL *that which I also received . . .*” (I Cor.15:1-2).

In fact, Paul went so far as to thunder that he was “an APOSTLE (not from MEN nor through man, but through JESUS CHRIST AND GOD THE FATHER . . .)” (Gal.1:1). He MARVELED that the Galatians were already “TURNING AWAY SO SOON from Him who called you in the grace of Christ TO ANOTHER GOSPEL [message, teaching], which,” he said, “is not [really] ANOTHER; but there are some who . . . want to PERVERT the gospel [teaching] of CHRIST.”

Paul THUNDERED, “But if WE, or an angel from heaven, preach ANY other gospel to you . . . LET HIM BE ACCURSED!” (Gal.1:6-8).

Where did Paul get his gospel message? He asseverated, “But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is *NOT ACCORDING TO MAN*. For I neither received it from MAN, nor was I taught it, but it came *THROUGH THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST*” (Galatians 1:11-12).

So what PAUL taught, on the issue of Pentecost, and everything else, the “GOODNEWS” OF THE GOSPEL, came directly from *JESUS CHRIST!!!*

Of course, as an apostle of God and Christ, Paul would never lie. Jesus said the Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35), and said to the Father, “Thy Word is truth” (John 17:17) – and part of that Word of God is the writings and epistles of the apostle Paul – inspired Scripture given by inspiration of God (II Tim.3:16-17). Therefore, Paul could NOT have “lied” or been seriously IN ERROR in which law and practice he followed! He followed Christ in ALL things! And he followed the Pharisees’ reckoning of Pentecost! So in this matter both Christ and Paul and the Pharisees ALL AGREED IN HOW TO COUNT THE HOLY DAY, AND WHAT DAY TO COUNT FROM!!

So who are the REAL PERVERTERS of the Gospel? Who are the REAL FALSE TEACHERS? Who are the real ones who are ACCURSED “liars”, PREACHING A FALSE GOSPEL AND A FALSE PENTECOST, when you stop and analyze it?

Paul's Writings are Divine Scripture

Peter told us about Paul's writings, “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 THE OTHER SCRIPTURES, unto their own destruction” (II Pet.3:15-16).

Peter clearly called the epistles of the apostle Paul “SCRIPTURE”!

Surely, then, since Paul’s writings are here referred to as “SCRIPTURE,” and God CANNOT LIE (Titus 1:2), there is no way that Paul could have lied in his epistles OR BEEN IN ERROR in his teachings – including his claim that he was a “Pharisee” and as a Pharisee he would have kept Pentecost 50 days after the Passover Annual Sabbath day of Nisan 15 – not the weekly Sabbath day during the Feast of Unleavened Bread!

Fighting Against Paul and Christ Himself!

But if this is the case, then notice the predicament that those who REFUSE to accept the Pharisee's reckoning of the Day of Pentecost face! *They find themselves FIGHTING AGAINST PAUL AND AGAINST CHRIST!*

Notice how their reasoning leads to a DIRECT CONTRADICTION of Scripture – and makes a LIAR out of the apostle Paul! For by following the Sadducees, they make the apostle Paul out to be a liar, who followed the practices of the PHARISEES, and who said he did so “BLAMELESSLY” -- who said, furthermore, that he was TAUGHT by Gamaliel, the leading Pharisee of his day, “according to the PERFECT MANNER OF THE LAW”!

Who is right? Paul, who wrote inspired Scripture? Or MODERN DAY, END-TIME MINISTERS OF THE SPLIT OFF CHURCHES WHO DISAGREE WITH HIM?

Isn't the answer perfectly clear? Jesus Christ Himself stated plainly, “The scribes and Pharisees SIT IN MOSES' SEAT: All therefore whatsoever THEY [Pharisees, not the Sadducees] bid you observe, *that observe and DO*” (Matthew 23:2-3). The Pharisees were the true authorities for interpreting the laws of God – the true custodians of the “oracles of God” (Romans 3:1-2) – so long as they taught what Moses and the Torah taught. And in this matter of counting Pentecost, it is clear that Paul followed the example and teaching of the Pharisees, not the Sadducees, who were deemed as heretics!

Two things which equal the same thing equal each other.
A = B; B = C; therefore A = C.

In regard to counting Pentecost, therefore, notice:

Paul's teaching equals Christ's teaching.
Paul's teaching equals the Pharisees' teaching.
So therefore the Pharisees' teaching equals Christ's teaching!

So the Pharisees are right after all!!!

It's SOOO Simple!

Look at it again! A fifth grader can understand this!

- A) Paul said he was a Pharisee, taught by the Pharisees, and was “blameless” in observing God's Law
- B) Paul observed Pentecost – using the Pharisees' calculation counting 50 days from the 2nd day of Passover (Nisan 16).
- C) This means Paul REJECTED the Sadducees' “Sunday” Pentecost!
- D) Paul followed CHRIST and received his gospel message from Christ (I Cor.11:1).
- E) Therefore, Christ also observed Pentecost on the days established by the Pharisees!

- F) For you to observe ANY OTHER DAY is tantamount to HERESY and brings you under a DIVINE CURSE!
- G) Paul and Christ kept Pentecost on Sivan 6, fifty days after Passover, SO WE SHOULD TOO!
- H) If we don't OBEY GOD, THEN OUR SALVATION IS IN GREAT DANGER – JEOPARDY!

Jesus Christ THUNDERS, “IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, *TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN!*” (MARK 7:7).

This means the *modern Jews who follow the rulings of the ancient Pharisees, are CORRECT!*

The Sadducees, who disappeared from history after 70 A.D., were in ERROR, not knowing the Word of God (Matt.22:29). Christ said they did NOT KNOW the Scriptures! (same verse).

*This means that ALL those remnant churches who follow their reckoning and keep Pentecost on a Sunday every year are in **GROSS SPIRITUAL DARKNESS AND FATAL ERROR!***

Jesus said the TRUTH will make you FREE! (John 8:32).

To disobey God, and keep the WRONG DAY for Pentecost, is SIN AND THE WAGES OF “SIN” IS DEATH BY THE LAKE OF FIRE! “Let him who thinks he stands TAKE HEED lest he FALL!” (I Cor.10:12).

Isn't it about time we quit disagreeing with the apostle Paul, with Christ, and with the Pharisees, and count Pentecost the same way they did? To observe Pentecost on *any other day than the day Christ Himself approved*, is sacrilege – gross error – an abomination in the sight of God – and a plain inexcusable violation of His commandments!

To Sum It Up

Let's face it flat out. Paul said to observe Pentecost on Sivan 6, or 50 days after Passover, Nisan 15, counting from Nisan 16. Remnant ministers of the various groups of the Church of God say to observe it on Sunday every year, counting from the weekly Sabbath.

Both can't be right.

The apostle Paul said he was a Pharisee. He said this in A.D. 60, thirty years after the death of Christ (Acts 22:3, 23:6). He stated flatly that he was taught the law “perfectly” and observed it “blamelessly” by the Pharisees. He NEVER rebuked the Pharisees for counting Pentecost by an erroneous counting methodology!

Are you or your minister going to sit there and argue with Paul, and pick a fight with him,

and categorically imply that he was a renegade, a heretic, a spiritual FRAUD and LIAR?

Would you choose to follow Paul? Or some breakaway church or minister who is deceived, deluded, who has fog in his eyes, and justifies ERROR and refuses to examine carefully the EVIDENCE to reach a godly VERDICT?

Will you continue to follow a man who disagrees with Paul = disagrees with Christ = disagrees with God, who inspired Paul?

YOUR CHOICE. But as for ME and MY house, we will follow Paul = follow Christ = follow GOD!

Remember, "There is a way that *SEEMS* right to a man, BUT IN THE END IT LEADS TO DEATH" (Prov.14:12, New International Version). *Beware of ministers who ignorantly or blindly follow false HUMAN traditions and thereby VIOLATE the laws of God, and who want to PICK A FIGHT with the apostle Paul, Christ, and God!*

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