

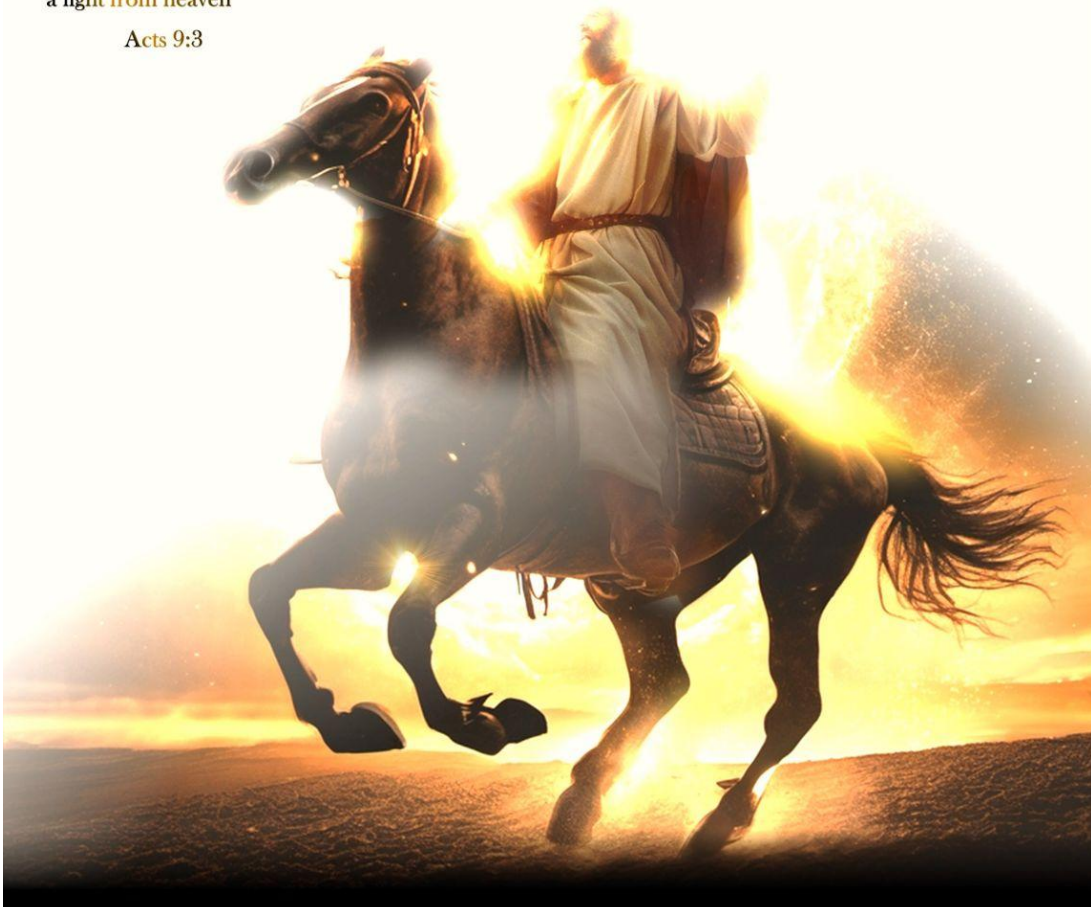
A Biblical Response to the Undermining of the Apostleship of Paul and the Denial of the Scriptural Authority of his Writings

The Apostle to the Gentiles

“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus:
and suddenly there shined round about him
a light from heaven”

Acts 9:3

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A CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS MINISTRY



The Apostle to the Gentiles

Prepared by Wes Hazlett of Bodyguard Christian Apologetics

Cover 'Blinded by the Light' created by Wild Bill Grafix

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble & Introduction

Forward & Statement of Faith	2-3
Acknowledgment	4
Preamble to Introduction.....	4
Motivation for The Apostle to the Gentiles	4
A Two-Edged Approach	5
Conclusion Reference.....	5
Appendix Reference - The Apostleship of Paul Reference Chart.....	5
Introduction:.....	6
Authorship of The Apostle to the Gentiles	7-8
An Obligation	8

The Apostle to the Gentiles

The Apostle to the Gentiles	9
Books of Paul (13).....	9-10
Books of John (5).....	10-12
Books of Luke (2)	12-14
Books of Peter (2)	15-16
Book of Matthew (1).....	17-18
Book of Mark (1)	18
Book of Jude (1)	19-20
Book of James (1)	20-21
A & B Exegesis versus Eisegesis & Synopsis	21
Approach A Main Points	22-23
Approach B Main Points	23-24
A Final Note	25
Conclusions	25-27
Appendix The Apostleship of Paul Reference Chart	27
Blinded by the Light Graphic & Closing Page	28
Addendum Postscript	29

The Apostle to the Gentiles

Forward & Statement of Faith

This author conducted this expository study, *The Apostle to the Gentiles*, with the complete understanding that the sixty-six canonized books of the Old (39) and New (27) Testament are the authoritative Word of God and that Scripture alone interprets Scripture.

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” -Isaiah 8:20

“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.” -Luke 16:16

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” -Matthew 24:35

“...The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” -Revelation 19:10

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” -2 Peter 1:19-21

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” -2 Timothy 3:16-17

In *John 21:25*, we read, ***“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”***

Furthermore, in **John 20:31**, ***“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”***

Are there things that Jesus did which are *not* written in the sixty-six books of the Canon? Absolutely. John supposed that even the world itself could not even contain the books. Some of these things may even be recorded in other writings, but even though there may be other writings, John states, ***“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”***

John’s words are clear. We are given the Word of God, and His Word is not to be added to nor taken from (**Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelation 22:18, Proverbs 30:5-6**). It is God’s revelation to mankind, and mankind is to live by His Word (**Matthew 4:4**).

The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say, and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.” -2 Timothy 2:6-9

In summation, because the Word of God is not bound, that which is *not* the Word of God is bonds slave to it. Jesus said, ***“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”*** (**Matthew 24:35**). The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (**Revelation 19:10**). Moreover, since prophecy came from the Holy Ghost as He moved holy men to speak and ***“...Scripture cannot be broken”*** (**John 10:35**), the author understands also that he is bonds slave to the Word of God.

God’s Word is not bound to man; man is bound to the Word of God. May the Lord receive all the glory, honor, and praise in the ***Apostle to the Gentiles***.



Acknowledgment

Thank you, **Pastor Dave Rogers**, of Cornerstone Baptist Church, for examining the doctrinal elements of this document. Thank you, **Mischeal Steinert**, for your dedication and grammatical eagle eye. Thank you, **Greg Nathe**, for taking the comb to the document. Thank you, **Carmen Valenzuela**, for the blessings of provision. And, to **all** who have prayed, your collective support during the preparation and production of this manuscript has been a testament to our shared faith. All glory and honor to God Almighty.

Preamble to Introduction

The Apostle to the Gentiles (AG) is an expository study with the understanding that all sixty-six books of the Canon are Holy Scripture. Henceforth, the *Word of God* or *Holy Scripture* will express this verbiage of the sixty-six books of Canonized Holy Scripture. All Scripture in this document is taken from the Authorized King James Version (KJV.)

Motivation for The Apostle to the Gentiles

In Christian exhortation, we are called to contend for the faith earnestly. The exhortation was motivated by Scripture: **Matthew 4:4, Titus 1:1-16, 1 Peter 3:15**, and the following passages;

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” -Jude 1:3

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.” -2 Timothy 4:1-6

A Two-Edged Approach

Two approaches are utilized in this expository study of the Apostleship of Paul:

A. Affirmation of Pauline Apostleship of Holy Scripture to exegete what the canonized New Testament record reveals about the Apostle Paul.

B. Disaffirmation of Pauline Apostleship letters called Holy Scripture attributed to the Apostle Paul (Pauline Corpus), and subsequent disaffirmation of other New Testament writers who affirm the apostleship of Paul.

Conclusion Reference

The Apostle to the Gentiles Conclusion located on Pages 25 - 26.

Appendix

**The Apostleship of Paul Reference Chart. See AG01 Reference Chart*

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS DISAFFIRMED BY ANTI-PAULINIAN CANONICAL ASSERTIONS	CANONICAL ORDER	NEW TESTAMENT BOOK	ANTI-PAULINIAN ASSERTIONS	PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP ASSURANCE	STUDY NOTES
Non-Pauline written New Testament proof texts that directly/indirectly affirm Paul's Apostleship					27 books of the New Testament and respective references directly or indirectly affirming the Apostleship of Paul
Matthew 10:2 affirms Peter; 2 Peter 3:15-17 affirms Paul	1	Matthew	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Affirms the Discipleship of Peter. Peter affirms Paul in 2 Peter 3:15-17 .
Peter affirms Marcus (Mark) 1 Peter 5:13	2	Mark	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	2 Timothy 4:11 , "...Take Mark...he is profitable to me for the ministry." (Col 4:10)
Luke affirms Paul in Acts; Acts 9:1-20 ; Apostle 14:14	3	Luke	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Luke is the writer of the Book of Acts. Luke affirms the Apostleship of Paul. (Col 4:14)
John affirms Peter as a disciple in John 1:42	4	John	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Galatians 2:9 . (Peter mentioned 37 times in the Book of John and 109 total in Gospels)
Luke authenticates Paul via Ananias in Acts 9:10-17	5	Acts	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Luke affirms Paul in Acts 9:1-19 . The Lord speaks to Ananias of Paul (Acts 9:10-17).
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	6	Romans	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Romans 1:1-2; "a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle..." (2:15-16; 11:13.)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	7	1 Corinthians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	1 Cor 1:1 , "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God..." (15:9)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	8	2 Corinthians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	2 Cor 1:1; 2:17 , "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God..."
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	9	Galatians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Galatians 1:1 , "Paul, an apostle..." (vs. 11-12...but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	10	Ephesians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Ephesians 1:1 , "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God..."
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	11	Philippians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Philippians 4:3 , "...help those women which laboured with me in the gospel..."
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	12	Colossians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Colossians 1:1 , "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ..." (vs. 1:23 "...gospel...minister)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	13	1 Thessalonians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	1 Thess 1:5 , "...our gospel came... power... and in the Holy Ghost" (trust with the Gospel)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	14	2 Thessalonians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	2 Thess 2:13-14 , "God...Whereunto he called you by our gospel..." (vs. 2:15)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	15	1 Timothy	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	1 Timothy 1:1 , "Paul... apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior"
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	16	2 Timothy	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	All scripture given by inspiration of God. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 cf 2 Peter 3:15-17 .
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	17	Titus	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Titus 1:1 , "...an apostle of Jesus Christ..." (cf Titus 1:1-4)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	18	Philemon	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Philemon 1:1 , "Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ... Timothy our brother, unto Philemon."
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	19	Hebrews	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Heb 4:12 cf Acts 13:44-49 , Heb 13:8 , "...our brother Timothy..."
Luke; record James; affirms Paul in Acts 15:12-40	20	James	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	James affirms the Apostleship of Paul in Galatians 2:9 . No contradiction in Titus 3:4-15 .
Peter affirms Silvanus (Silas); Silas affirms Paul in Acts 15:40	21	1 Peter	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Peter affirms his own Apostleship in 1 Peter 1:1 . Refers to "scripture" (2:6).
Peter affirms Paul 2 Peter 3:15-17	22	2 Peter	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Peter affirms Paul; 2 Peter 3:15-17 ; "...brother Paul...all his epistles... other scriptures."
John affirms Peter's apostleship; affirmed by Luke in Acts 8:14-17	23	1 John	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	The Gospel writer John wrote; John 1, 2, 3 John , and Revelation for a total of 5 books.
2 John 1:9-11 and Acts 9:17, 16:14; 20:20	24	2 John	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	2:10-11 , "...receive him not into your house..." Acts 2:46; 9:17 (Ananias); 16:40; 20:20 .
3 Epistle of John written by John	25	3 John	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	1 Cor 1:14 , Acts 19:29
Jude 1:17-18 affirms Peter as an Apostle; 2 Peter 3:1-4	26	Jude	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Jude 1:17-18 points to a reference in 2 Peter 3:1-2; 2:1 . 1 Timothy 4:1 .
The Revelation of Jesus Christ given to John. (See Gal 1:12)	27	Revelation	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	John the Gospel writer wrote the Book of Revelation. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ..."

**The Apostleship of Paul Reference Chart is undergoing a sizing revision. We are producing a laminated printable 11 x 17 reference chart. Please visit our social media platforms to see updates on the AG01 reference chart.*

INTRODUCTION

The Apostleship of Paul: How Anti-Paulinian Teachings Affect the Integrity of the New Testament

A Christian places their Sword back in its sheath and gives God the praise for skillfully wielding the Sword of the Spirit in fending off another attack on the faith once delivered.

Attacks on the Word of God come from every angle, even from friends we *thought* held an uncompromising view of the inerrancy of Scripture and who were seemingly once entirely given toward the defense of the faith.

The motivation for producing *The Apostle to the Gentiles* (AG) became deeply personal when a man known by this author, once strong in the Word and spiritual warfare engagement, had now come to deny the Apostleship of Paul.

By denying *Paul's writings as Holy Scripture and by disaffirming his Apostleship, an anti-Paulinian ideology is created. In maintaining anti-Paulinian ideological consistency, the testimony of the other writers of New Testament books who *affirm* the Apostleship of Paul- must also be *disaffirmed*.

**All Scripture is taken from the canonized record of Holy Scripture within the Holy Bible. All Scripture is taken from the King James Version. The book of Hebrews may be non-Paulinian due to the writer being unnamed. However, firstly, the writer of Hebrews says, "Pray for us" in Hebrews 13:18. This petition is only used three other times in all of the New Testament- two different times- both by Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:25, 2 Thessalonians 3:1). Secondly, Timothy is a noted ministerial companion and fellow laborer of Paul (Colossians 1:1) who affirms the apostleship of Paul. Timothy's mention is in Hebrews 13:23. Also noted are Paul's words in Philippians 2:19-24. (See also the unique relationship between Peter and Mark in 1 Peter 5:13). Paul was going to send Timotheus (Timothy) to the saints at Philippi to check on their well-being. It should also be noted in Hebrews 13:24, the writer sends a salute, writing, "they of Italy salute you." In Luke's account of Acts 28:11-13, Paul and his company were in Syracuse (Italy). The Lord Jesus Himself attests to Paul testifying of Christ in Rome (Acts 23:11). While the writer of the book of Hebrews is unnamed- Paul, Timothy, Peter or another writer who preached the Gospel in Italy at this time was inextricably linked with Paul's ministry as drawn from Paul's letter; Romans 1:7, "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints..." See Appendix AG01 for additional Scriptural references. For emphasis, some textual areas may be highlighted in bold text, set in all caps, or underlined.*



The Authorship of *The Apostle to the Gentiles*

The Word of God was the foundation for this expository study. The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, who wrote, ***“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29).***

Holy Scripture reveals that Jesus of Nazareth is God Himself manifested in the flesh (**1 Timothy 3:16**) and that He is the eternal Word made flesh (**John 1:1-14**), that came down from heaven (**John 6:38**), from God (**John 8:42**). Moreover, the Word of truth testifies that Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of Israel first (**Ezekial 34:23-24, Matthew 10:5, 15:24**), then to the Gentiles (**Romans 1:16, 2:10, Isaiah 42:6; 62:2**), of the which, Jesus had ordained it through the preaching of the Gospel to His disciples, of the which, Jesus would by revelation, ordain Saul of Tarsus to become the Apostle to the Gentiles (**Acts 9, Romans 11:13**), through the sacrifice of Himself was to make way for the unregenerate to know the gift of salvation (**John 3:16-18**), first to the Jew, then to the Gentile (**Isaiah 62:2, Romans 1:16**).

Christ appeared to Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 9**) and ordained him to be the Apostle to the Gentiles (**Romans 11:13**), who spoke the words of God (**Acts 13:44-47**) by the revelation of Christ (**Galatians 1:1-2**). This significant role is testified directly by Luke and Peter and indirectly by several others in Scripture that collectively affirm the Apostleship of Paul.

“The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.” -Luke 16:16

The twenty-seven books of the New Testament reveal that the Son of God - Jesus the Christ, is God Himself (**Isaiah 9:6, John 1:1, Hebrews 1:8**), the Eternal Word (**Micah 5:2**) who took upon the nature of mankind and was made flesh (**John 1:1-14, 1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 10:5-7, Philippians 2:6-7**) who came down from Heaven (**John 6:38**) to do the will of the Father (**John 6:38-46**). This truth is testified by the power of the Holy Spirit (**John 15:26**). While Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of Israel first as the promised Messiah (**Isaiah 53, Matthew 10:5**), Jesus, in due time, through the sacrifice of Himself (**John 10:14-18**), opened the door to salvation to make way for all sinful men to know the gift of salvation (**John 3:16-18**), first to the Jew (**Luke 1:68, Matthew 15:24**) then to the Gentiles (**Isaiah 62:2, Romans 1:16**) throughout the entire world (**John 3:16-18**).

The Word of God, revealed through the Old (39) and New Testament (27) Books in the Biblical Canon, is God’s witness of Himself to His own creation and for His own creation. As His creation, the offspring of Adam, we are to live by every Word of God (**Luke 4:4**). The writers of the Old and New Testaments wrote down God’s incorruptible Word (**1 Peter 1:22-25**), by the will of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (**2 Peter 1:19-21**). God promises that His

Word is truth (**John 17:17**). His immutable Truth endures forever (**Psalms 117:2**) throughout all generations (**Psalms 11:5**), and nobody is ever to add to His Word (**Proverbs 30:5-6**) or take away from His Word (**Revelation 22:18-20**).

“For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; And his truth endureth to all generations.” -Psalms 100:5

The Apostle Paul’s ministry is presented in his writings: **Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon**, and ***Hebrews** (14 books; See note on p. 6 regarding the book of Hebrews.).

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” -2 Peter 1:20-21

An Obligation

Dear reader, test this document against Scripture. If anything in this presentation is contrary to the Scriptural record, one not only has an obligation to reject the doctrine but also to correct this author- Scripturally- in the spirit of gentleness (**Galatians 6:1**).

The twenty-seven books of the New Testament reveal that the Son of God - Jesus the Christ - the Eternal Word made flesh (**Micah 5:2, John 1:1-14, Hebrews 1:6-12**), came down from Heaven (**John 6:38**) to do the will of the Father (**John 6:38-46**). This truth is testified by the Holy Spirit (**John 15:26**). The Lord Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of Israel first as the promised Messiah (**Isaiah 53, Matthew 10:5**), Jesus, in due time, through the sacrifice of Himself, was to make the way for all of humanity to know the gift of salvation (**John 3:16-18**), first to the Jew, then to the Gentile (**Isaiah 62:2, Romans 1:16**).

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” -2 Timothy 3:13-17

**The Apostle
to the Gentiles**

THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

A Two-Edged Approach | A - Affirmation of Scripture | B - *Exclusion of Pauline Writings



*Approach B ultimately disaffirms the testimony of other writers of New Testament books.

BOOKS OF PAUL (13)

The Apostle Paul Affirmed by Scripture

Romans 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 9:1-2, 2 Corinthians 11:7-12, Galatians 1:1-2, Ephesians 1:1-2, Philippians 1:15-17, Colossians 1:1, 1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 1:1, Titus 1:1-3

- Anti-Paulinian Approach to Scripture **DISAFFIRMS** all of Paul's Thirteen Books as Part of the Anti-Paulinian Belief System

*The Books of Paul (13) | *Total words: 43,293 words*

*Due to discrepancies in the total number of words from varying sources, this number is approximate.

- A. The Pauline epistles (also called Pauline Corpus), are the thirteen New Testament books (*14 with Hebrews) attributed to Paul the Apostle. These books are ***Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.*** (*Hebrews - See page 6)

The anti-Paulinian Approach to Scripture disaffirms all of Paul's writings as part of the New Testament and completely repudiates Christendom's historical acceptance of Paul's writings as Canonized Holy Scripture.

One point pertaining to the 'unnamed writer' of Hebrews is found in ****Hebrews 13:18, "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly." Hebrews 13:22-24, "...for I have written a letter unto you in a few words. Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you. Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you."*** King James Version translators named Timothy as

the writer of Hebrews with a subscript note, *“Written to the Hebrews from Italy by Timothy”*. (Source: <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-13-25/>)

See also 2 Corinthians 1:1 (written by Paul), ***“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:”*** In the event, Paul is not the writer of Hebrews, Timothy is mentioned in ***Hebrews 13:23*** as affirming the testimony of the writer of Hebrews. The writer of Hebrews, simply by stating ***“our brother Timothy,”*** affirms the ministry of Paul by such known Paulinian passages as ***Philemon 1:1, “Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer.”***

If Timothy were the writer of Hebrews, Timothy, by association with Paul, would be disaffirmed by anti-Paulinian assertion (***Acts 16:1; 17:15; 18:5***).

Thirteen New Testament books would consequently remain after removing Paulinian writings. To be consistent with this (anti-Paulinian) belief system, one must carefully exegete all other New Testament writings on how the Apostle Paul and his writings are presented by other New Testament books and their respective writers. If a writer(s) and their writings affirm Paul from any other New Testament book, then one must disaffirm that writer and all his words.

If even one other writer of a New Testament book directly or indirectly affirms Paul, his words, or his apostleship, one must wholly disaffirm this writer entirely- or one is postulating an interpretation of Holy Scripture that introduces a private interpretation of Scripture that does not stand entirely on the merit of Scripture alone.

Note: No part B in Pauline section due to the hypothetical exclusion of Paul's writings or writings by a scribe recording Paul's words as inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).

BOOKS OF JOHN (5)

- **John's Five Books - Books of John **DISAFFIRMED** by John's Indirect Affirmation of Paul**

Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation (5 Books)

*John - 18,658 words / 1 John - 2517 words / 2 John - 298 words / 3 John - 294 words
Revelation - 11,952 words / Total 33,719*

- A. The Apostle Paul Affirmed in Scripture by John in the book of Acts.
Acts 15:2-26, Galatians 2:9

B. John wrote five books that affirmed Paul indirectly by association with Peter, who affirmed Paul. ***Acts 8:14-17, "14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."***

John's connection with Peter is evident in the Gospel of John, where he refers to Peter thirty-one times. John identifies Peter as one of the disciples called by Jesus (***John 1:42***) and makes a significant prophecy about Peter's death, foreseeing that it would glorify God (***John 21:19***).

In reference to Peter, called by God as a disciple and Apostle chosen by God, Jesus said in ***John 17:12, "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."***

Judas was the only one of His original twelve disciples that the Lord said was 'lost' in ***John 17:12***. Luke wrote of this loss filled by Matthias (who was numbered with the apostles following the loss of Judas) in ***Acts 1:25, "That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."*** Though it is not said where Judas went, the Lord Jesus gives ominous words about the man Judas Iscariot as recorded in ***Mark 14:21, "The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born."***

Another interesting point to consider is in John's second epistle, in which John writes in ***2 John 1:7-11, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." -2 John 1:7-11***

John says to let nobody in your house bring this doctrine, yet in Acts, John, Peter, and James all gave Paul a blessing to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles (***Acts 9:17, 20:20***). Ananias brought Paul into his own house at the command of Jesus. In ***Galatians 1:18***, Paul writes that he 'abode' with Peter for fifteen days, while in ***Acts 20:20-21***, Paul taught publicly from ***"...house to house, Testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."***

Acts 16:14-15 “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.”

John knew the Gospel. Peter knew the Gospel. If Paul preached any other Gospel as John indicated, John would not have supported Paul's proclamation of the Gospel to the Gentiles in ***Galatians 2:9***. Surely Peter would not have let Paul stay in his own house (***Galatians 1:18***). Furthermore, Scripture reveals Paul was welcomed into the homes of; Aquila and Priscilla (***Acts 18:1-3***), Lydia (***Acts 16:14-15***), Peter (***Galatians 1:18***), and house to house (***Acts 20:20-21***) in his mission to proclaim the Gospel.

BOOKS OF LUKE (2)

- **Luke's Two Books - Luke and the Acts of the Apostles (Acts) DISAFFIRMED by Luke's Direct Affirmation of Paul in the Book of Acts.**

The Book of Luke and the Book of Acts (2 Books) | Luke - 25,640 words | Acts - 24,229 words | Total 49,869

A. The Apostle Paul Affirmed in Scripture by Luke.
Acts 9:4-20; 13:43-49, 14:14, 15:22-27

B. Luke's testimony affirms the Apostleship of Paul in numerous passages within the book of Acts. ***Acts 9:10, "And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord."*** Luke wrote the account of the Lord Jesus speaking to Ananias outside of the testimony of Paul's own words. This testimony came from the Lord speaking to Ananias about (Saul) Paul- from Luke.

Acts 13:2: "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

First, bearing in mind that all Scripture is given by the will and inspiration of God (***2 Peter 1:21***). Acts must be disaffirmed entirely as Scripture in the Anti-Paulinian line of reasoning as it not only records the testimony of Jesus and the Holy Spirit- it also does not rely on any of Paul's own testimony to support the testimony of the book of Acts.

Luke wrote of the Lord Jesus Christ speaking directly to Ananias that He had chosen Paul. Luke writes in ***Acts 9:11-16, "11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of***

Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 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: 16 for I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

If one believes the entirety of the New Testament to be the Word of God, one is calling Ananias, Luke, and even Jesus Christ Himself- a liar in this account within the book of Acts.

In addition to the testimony of the Lord's own words to Ananias of Paul, Luke also writes of a man named Tychicus in ***Acts 20:4, "And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus."***

Who is Tychicus? A cross reference reveals in ***Ephesians 6:18-23, "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts. Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."***

See Tychicus also in ***2 Timothy 4:12, Titus 3:12, and Colossians 4:18***. If one claims Paul to have been a false apostle, one must also disaffirm the book of Acts by virtue of Luke affirming Tychicus being a fellow minister with Paul as recorded in ***Acts 20:1-7***.

In yet another example of Luke's testimony affirming Paul's role in sharing the Gospel with the Gentiles, Luke writes in ***Acts 16:14-15*** of a woman named Lydia:

"14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us."

Luke writes that Lydia's heart was opened by the Lord when she believed Paul's words (***Acts 16:14***). In ***Acts 16:9-10***, Paul shared the Gospel with the Greek women gathered together; this is Luke's testimony under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord opened the heart of Lydia to receive the Gospel. If one is a Gentile believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, this passage alone should offer rich blessings. It reveals that Lydia could rightly be the first European Gentile convert.

Luke's *testimony of Ananias, Tychicus, Lydia, and, above all, *the Holy Spirit Himself*- is indisputable evidence from a non-Pauline written book that Paul was chosen by God (**Acts 9:15-16**) and fulfilled the role of an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

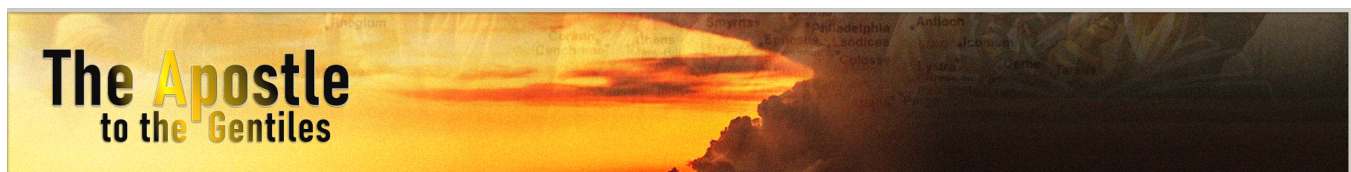
Luke writes in **Acts 13:2**, “...the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them.” Luke would be just as guilty as Hananiah in Jeremiah's day of falsely speaking the words of God *if* the Holy Spirit was not speaking through him.

Hearkening back, Jeremiah writes of Hananiah;

“And Hananiah spake in the presence of all the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years. And the prophet Jeremiah went his way. Then the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the prophet, after that Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron. For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also. Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD. So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month.”
-Jeremiah 28:11-17

Given Jeremiah's writings (**Jeremiah 28:11-17**) and how God dealt with Ananias and Sapphira (**Acts 5:1-12**), it is of a certainty that Luke's testimony of Jesus speaking (**Acts 9:4-16, 18:9-10**) of the Holy Ghost speaking (**Acts 13:2**) is what God moved Luke to write.

**Luke's affirming testimony of the apostleship of Paul also supported in the book of Acts by; The Lord Jesus Christ (9:1-5, 18:9-10), Ananias (9:10-17), Barnabas (9:27; 12:25-26), Apostles and Elders (Acts 15:4; 22-25), 'All' the multitude (Acts 15:12), prophets Judas and Silas (Acts 15:22, 32, 40), Lydia (Acts 16:14), Bereans (Acts 17:10-13), Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:1-4), Apollos (Acts 18:24-28). Anti-Paulinians must also disaffirm these individual testimonies.*



BOOKS OF PETER (2)

- **Peter's Two Books – 1 & 2 Peter – Books of Peter **DISAFFIRMED** by Peter's Direct Affirmation of Paul**

1st & 2nd Peter (2 Books) | 1 Peter - 2476 words & 2 Peter - 1553 words | Total 4029 words

A. The Apostle Paul Affirmed in Scripture by Peter.

2 Peter 3:15-17, Galatians 1:18; 2:7-10, Acts 15:1-12

B. The Apostle Paul is Affirmed by Peter in Scripture in *2 Peter 3:15-17*. Matthew affirmingly mentions Peter twenty-four times in his Gospel. Matthew writes in ***Matthew 10:2-4***, ***“Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.”***

Matthew identifies Peter as the first apostle in ***Matthew 10:2***. When you cross reference ***Matthew 10:2*** with ***2 Peter 3:15-16***, Peter and Matthew's writings would be disaffirmed if Paul is a false Apostle.

Beloved Brother Paul

Peter writes in ***2 Peter 3:14-17***, ***“14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 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; 16 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. 17 Ye, therefore, beloved, seeing, ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.”***

One noted precept of Anti-Paulinian doctrine is the belief that Peter believed Paul to be a false Apostle. Peter's words in ***2 Peter 2:1***, according to this Anti-Paulinian doctrine- justify this belief, which states, ***“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”***

This Anti-Paulinian interpretation of **2 Peter 2:1** is a classical case of eisegesis- applying a presuppositional held belief system to the text without properly supporting the belief system with other Scriptural passages as proof as to the accuracy of the interpretation.

When one contextually joins **2 Peter 3:14-17** with **2 Peter 2:1**, one can *only* conclude that Peter identified Paul as a ‘beloved brother’ whose writings’, false teachers, and false prophets would wrestle with **“unto their own destruction.”** Peter’s words regarding false prophets and teachers in **2 Peter 3:17** end sternly, **“Ye, therefore, beloved, seeing, ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.”**

Also noted from **1 Peter 5:12**, nearing the end of Peter’s salutation, **“By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.”** Silvanus (also referred to as Silas), who was called a ‘faithful brother unto you’ (v. 12), was also a ministry companion of Paul as recorded by Luke; **Acts 15:40-41**, in which Silas was **“recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.”** As Peter noted, Silas was Paul’s faithful brother and trusted ministry companion. (**2 Corinthians 1:19, 1 Thessalonians 1:1**).

Peter writes in **1 Peter 5:13**, **“The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.”** Peter’s affirmation of Marcus (Mark) notes his close relationship with Mark. Mark is called a fellow laborer of Paul in **Philemon 1:24**. Although Paul previously thought it best not to take Mark on a mission to revisit brethren they had already visited (**Acts 15:36-41**), Paul does affirm Mark as one to be profitable for his ministry (**2 Timothy 4:11**).

Silas and Marcus spent time with Peter and Paul on the mission to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. One must conclude that Peter would be deceived and therefore disaffirmed as an apostle of the Lord if Paul was a false apostle.

Lastly, Luke writes of Peter in **Acts 4:8**, **“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel...”** And also, in **Luke 10:44-45**, **“44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.”**

Scripture concludes that Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ (**1 Peter 1:1**), was ‘filled with the Holy Ghost’ (**Acts 4:8**) and identified Paul’s writings as ‘Scripture’ and ‘epistles’ all while naming Paul as a ‘beloved brother’ in **2 Peter 3:15-17**. As a side note, Peter is mentioned ***156 times** in the New Testament, and he affirms that Paul to be a ‘beloved brother.’

**Peter is mentioned 156 times in the New Testament. Source:
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/search.php?q=Peter&order=1&s=&bsec=&qte=>*

BOOK OF MATTHEW

- **Matthew's 1 Book – Book of Matthew DISAFFIRMED by Affirmation of Paul in Acts**

The Book of Matthew (1 Book) | Total words: 23,343

- A. The Apostle Paul Affirmed in Scripture in Acts by Luke of Matthew being of the group of Apostles affirming Paul
Acts 15:3-6, Acts 15:22-26

In Matthew's testimony, recorded in ***Matthew 9:9***, he is called to be a disciple of Jesus: ***"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him."***

Luke writes in ***Acts***, ***"And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James."***

Matthew is not mentioned by name after ***Acts 1:13***; however, Matthew's support of the ministry of Paul cannot be discounted due to the testimony of Luke;

"And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. But apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter." –Acts 15:3-6

"Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." –Acts 15:22-26

Luke states that the things God did through the conversion of the Gentiles by the preaching of Paul and Barnabas were received in a way that caused great joy unto all the brethren. Paul and Barnabas were received by the brethren as beloved Barnabas and Paul. One cannot

conclude that Matthew was *not* part of this assembly of apostles in identifying Paul as a ‘beloved brother’ in the Lord. In stronger terms, one cannot conclude from the text (**Acts 15:3-6, Acts 15:22-26**) that Matthew believed Paul to be a false apostle. Therefore, Matthew’s testimony cannot affirm the belief system that Paul is a false apostle.

As stated above in Peter’s section (*Peter; p. 15-16*), Matthew identifies Peter as the first apostle in **Matthew 10:2**. When one cross-references **Matthew 10:2** with **2 Peter 3:15-16**, Peter and Matthew’s writings would be disaffirmed if Paul is a false apostle.

BOOK OF MARK

- **Mark’s 1 Book – Book of Mark **DISAFFIRMED** by direct affirmation of Paul by Luke and Peter**

The Book of Mark (1 Book) | Total words: 14,949

- A. *The Apostle Paul Affirmed in Scripture by Mark (*John Mark, Mark*)
2 Timothy 4:11, Philemon 1:24, Colossians 4:10, 1 Peter 5:13, Acts 12:25

*Note: Though not affirmed by the Gospel of Mark nor directly mentioned by Mark, Mark is a known ministerial companion of Paul (Barnabas and Peter as well). By virtue of this ministerial association (**Acts 12:25**), one must conclude that Mark affirmed the ministry of Paul.*

- B. Mark wrote the Book of Mark. Luke writes of Mark in **Acts 12:25**, “**And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.**”

Peter writes in **1 Peter 5:13**, “**The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.**” Mark accompanies Peter in ministry. In **2 Timothy 4:10-12**, we read, “**For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.**”

*Note: In Colossians 4:10, Paul writes, “Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister’s son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)” Mark was Barnabas’s cousin. Barnabas and Paul ministered together (**Acts 13:43-46; 15:12; 15:35**). Luke, Peter, and Paul all affirm Mark’s role as recorded in the New Testament in a manner that affirms his role in Paul’s ministry.*

BOOK OF JUDE

- **Jude's 1 Book – Book of Jude indirectly **DISAFFIRMED** by Jude's shared passages with Peter and Paul's writings**

The Book of Jude (1 Book) | Total words - 608

- A. The Apostle Paul Affirmed by Jude by shared testimony of Peter
See bulleted points below. 2 Peter alone contains several references to Peter's writings.

The Book of Jude indirectly affirms Paul's testimony through the words of Peter through Jude. 2 Peter has several relational passages with Jude, as noted below;

- ***2 Peter 1:5 & Jude 1:3***
- ***2 Peter 1:12 & Jude 1:5***
- ***2 Peter 2:1 & Jude 1:4***
- ***2 Peter 2:4 & Jude 1:6***
- ***2 Peter 2:6 & Jude 1:7***
- ***2 Peter 2:10–11 & Jude 1:8–9***
- ***2 Peter 2:12 & Jude 1:10***
- ***2 Peter 2:13–17 & Jude 1:11–13***
- ***2 Peter 3:2 & Jude 17***
- ***2 Peter 3:14 & Jude 24***
- ***2 Peter 3:18 & Jude 25***

Jude 1:17-18, "But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit."

2 Peter 3:1-4, "1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 3 knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

- B. Peter has already been disaffirmed by direct affirmation of Paul's writings as Scripture (***2 Peter 3:15-17***). By virtue of Jude sharing several key Scriptural passages from Peter's writings, one must disaffirm Jude's writings.

Jude's writings contain like-minded testimony similar to that also of Paul's writings. **Jude 1:4 & Galatians 2:4, Jude 1:5 & 1 Corinthians 10:9, Jude 1:12 & Ephesians 4:14, Jude 1:20 & Colossians 2:7**, all share close commonalities. Jude's section alone does not directly affirm or disaffirm the apostleship of Paul; however, a wondrous theme is realized- that God used a number of writers to write Holy Scripture, of which- Almighty God alone is the Author.

BOOK OF JAMES

- **James 1 Book – Book of James **DISAFFIRMED** by Indirect Affirmation of Paul by the Testimony of Luke**

The Book of James (1 Book) | 2304 words

A. The Apostle Paul affirmed in Scripture by James of Luke's testimony in Acts; **Acts 15:1-25, Acts 21:17-20, Galatians 2:6-10**

B. The testimony of James (James the Just and half-brother to Jesus) is recorded in the book of Acts. Luke writes of some occurrences;

Acts 15:1-25. "(3)...caused great joy unto *ALL the brethren." "(4)...RECEIVED of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared *ALL things that God had done with them."

"(v. 12) Then *ALL the multitude...gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them."

"(v. 13)...James answered, saying Men and brethren..." "(22) Then pleased the apostles and elders, with the *WHOLE church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren" "(25)...to send chosen men unto you with our BELOVED Barnabas and Paul."

"17 And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. 18 And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and ALL the elders were present. 19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. 20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, BROTHER, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:" –Acts 21:17-20

[*Author capitalization noting emphasis on words; 'all,' 'received,' 'whole,' and 'beloved.']

One must conclude that James was represented and numbered among the ‘multitude’ in **Acts 15**. When one cross-references **Galatians 2** and Acts 15, James agrees with receiving Paul as ‘beloved’ (**Acts 15:25**), a ‘brother’ (**Acts 15:3; 21:20**) and that Paul is numbered with the entire church (**Acts 15:4**), and present within all the multitude (**Acts 15:12**).

A & B Approach: Exegesis vs. Eisegesis

This expository study of the New Testament’s Apostleship of Paul was conducted reflecting two approaches: Part A is exegetical in nature while part B is eisegetical in nature.

Approach A ‘*solely draws from the text*’ or ‘*leads out of the text itself*’- wholly trusting the integrity of Holy Scripture being interpreted by Holy Scripture (**Matthew 4:4**). Approach B demonstrates what happens when one has presupposed Paul to be of ‘*false brethren*’ and his writings to be *not* inspired by the Holy Spirit. This approach draws toward or ‘*leads into*’ an interpretational bias. Approach B exposes careless Anti-Paulinian *hermeneutics.

Approach A - highlights the inclusion of all twenty-seven books of the New Testament, fully allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture with the expositional motivation drawing out from the text itself.

Approach B - begins with Paul’s thirteen letters excluded or ‘disaffirmed’ as a *hypothetical* exposition through the Scriptures in which the ‘disaffirmed’ writings of Paul would then, like a domino effect, disaffirm other New Testament books if they indeed support an affirmational view of Paul’s writings, ministry, and books.

**Biblical Hermeneutics: hermeneutics is an activity that interests biblical scholars, and the word is sometimes used in philosophy as well. www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/hermeneut*

A & B Approach Synopsis

A. Pauline Apostleship Affirmation in the Twenty-Seven Books of the New Testament Canon to ask what the entire narrative of the canonized New Testament record reveals about the Apostle Paul.

B. Anti-Paulinian Disaffirmation of New Testament Books to exegete and examine what non-Paulinian attributed New Testament respective book writers state and affirm of the Apostle Paul.

Approach A Main Points

A Scriptural approach affirming the Scriptural testimony of the Apostleship of Paul.

A. When one carefully pursues an honest exegesis of the New Testament Canon, where Scripture interprets Scripture, and the preponderance of textual evidence supporting the Apostleship of Paul is irrefutable. The following points Scripturally highlight the legitimacy of Paul's apostleship.

1. Paul affirmed as an Apostle Scripturally; ***Romans 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 9:1-2, 2 Corinthians 11:7-12, Galatians 1:1-2, Ephesians 1:1-2, Philippians 1:15-17, Colossians 1:1, 1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 1:1, and Titus 1:1-3.***
2. Luke tells of Jesus speaking to Ananias of Paul as a 'chosen vessel' in ***Acts 9:1-20.***
3. Luke identifies Paul as an Apostle in ***Acts 14:14.***
4. Paul preached the Gospel of Christ through ***"mighty signs and wonders."*** (***Romans 15:18-20.***)
5. Paul is ***"called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God..."*** ***1 Corinthians 1:1.***
6. Peter calls Paul a 'beloved brother' and calls his writings epistles and Scripture in ***2 Peter 3:15-17.*** Peter makes a clear distinction between false teachers/prophets and Paul's writings from ***2 Peter 3:14-17*** and ***2 Peter 2:1.***
7. James (Lord's brother), Cephas (Peter), and John gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship (a solemn act of support or partnership) in preaching the Gospel to the uncircumcision (Gentiles) in ***Galatians 2:1-9.***
8. The writer of Hebrews refers to ***"our brother Timothy"*** in Hebrews 13:23. Other Pauline introductions begin with an introduction noting Paul and Timotheus (***Colossians 1:1***), and ***"Timothy our brother."*** (***2 Corinthians 1:1-19***), which indicates unity in ministry.
9. In ***2 John 1:10***, John writes, ***"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:"*** In ***Acts 21:8-9***, Paul stayed in the house of Philip the Evangelist. In ***Galatians 1:18***, Paul 'abode' in Peter's house for fifteen days. In ***Acts 20:20***, Luke writes of Paul saying, ***"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house."*** Paul received unwavering support and was kept in the house of disciples Aquila and Priscilla (***Acts 18:2-3***), Justus (***Acts 18:7-10***), Lydia (***Acts 16:15***), Peter, Philip, and an untold number of houses from the testimony of Luke in ***Acts 20:20***. Why? For the reason that Paul preached the Word of God, by the will of God, and by the revelation of Jesus Christ (***Galatians 1:11-12***).
10. Luke states that the Jews were blaspheming when they opposed the words of God that Paul was speaking (***Acts 13:43-45***).

11. The term '*Christian*' appears three times in the New Testament: **Acts 11:26, 26:28**, and **1 Peter 4:16**. Only Luke and Peter mention this, and *both* affirm Paul. Where is one justified in calling themselves a Christian if Luke and Peter's writings are disaffirmed in as much as they affirm Paul's writings? Who was preaching the Gospel for a whole year at the church in Antioch of Syria when the word '*Christian*' first appeared- Barnabas and Paul.
12. Luke identifies Silas as a '*prophet*' in Acts 15:32. Paul chose Silas after being recommended by the brethren to engage in missionary work (**Acts 15:40-41**). It would be Scripturally egregious to conclude that the Holy Spirit, using Silas as a prophet, would join Silas in his ministry to the ministry of a false apostle.
13. Paul performed the works and signs of an Apostle; **Matthew 10:7-8, 2 Corinthians 12:11-12, Acts 19:11-12** (God performed Miracles through Paul), **Acts 16:18; 19:12** (Cast out Demons/Evil Spirits), **Mark 16:17-18; Luke 10:19** (power to tread on and be unharmed by serpents), personally spoken to and visually witnessed the risen Christ (**Acts 9:1-6; 18:9-10; 22:14, 1 Corinthians 9:1**) and preached the Word of God (**Acts 13:43-45**) as God foreordained of all following the mission of John the Baptist in **Luke 16:16**, "***The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.***" In faithful consistency to these words of Christ, Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 1:17**, "***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.***" (See; **1 Corinthians 2:1-4, Galatians 1:11-12**, and **Ephesians 3:5-12** as to Paul being called to preach the Word of God.
14. According to kingjamesbibleonline.com, the most mentioned name in the New Testament is, of course, **Jesus** (961 times) and '**Holy Spirit**' (391 times) or '**Holy Ghost**' (177 times or 568 times total). Secondly, **Paul** is the second most mentioned name in the New Testament (159 times). If one takes Paul's other name- Saul (23 times), one has a total of 161 mentions. Thirdly is **Peter** (156 times). In being consistent with Anti-Paulinian logic, one must conclude that Paul (Saul) is the most mentioned mere human being found in the entire New Testament- all while claiming Paul to be a false prophet.

Approach B Main Points

B. A Scriptural approach disaffirming the testimony of the Apostleship of Paul through a hypothetical Anti-Paulinian line of argumentation that first disaffirms every New Testament book attributed to Paul.

The B approach was researching the testimony of non-Paulinian writers of New Testament Canonized books and critically examining their disaffirmation of Saul of Tarsus - Paul (**Acts 13:9**) as one ordained of Christ Himself (**Acts 9**) to serve in the

ministry as an Apostle to the Gentiles (**Acts 13:47**). If one disaffirms the apostleship of Paul or asserts that Paul is a false apostle, then one must *consequently:

1. **DISAFFIRM MATTHEW'S WRITINGS** (1) by virtue of Matthew identifying Peter as an Apostle.
2. **DISAFFIRM MARK'S WRITINGS** (1) by virtue of Mark affirming the ministries of both Paul and Peter.
3. **DISAFFIRM LUKE'S WRITINGS** (2) by virtue of the Acts of the Apostles affirming the apostleship of Paul. Luke's writings are disaffirmed. [Books of Luke and Acts]
4. **DISAFFIRM JOHN'S WRITINGS** (5) by virtue of John affirming the ministry of Paul in supporting Paul preaching the Gospel to the uncircumcised/Gentiles.
5. **DISAFFIRM PETER'S WRITINGS** (2), by virtue of Peter affirming Paul's writings as Epistles and Scripture. [1 and 2 Peter]
6. **DISAFFIRM HEBREWS** (1) by virtue of 'brother' Timothy mentioned.
7. **DISAFFIRM JAMES' WRITINGS** (1) by virtue of Luke's testimony of James affirming Paul as a brother and of his support in his ministry to the Gentiles.
8. **DISAFFIRM JUDE'S WRITINGS** (1) indirectly by virtue of Jude and Peter's writings being inextricably inseparable, affirming Peter, who affirms Paul.

**In the New Testament order, with the exclusion of the books of Paul. Book of Hebrews noted—John's writings in order first of his Gospel with attributed books.*

By claiming Paul to be a false Apostle, one cannot simply eliminate Paul's thirteen books and use the remaining- *fourteen as authoritative if Paul wrote Hebrews. Hebrews would also be disaffirmed by Timothy's ministerial unity in his mission work with Paul.

Excluding the Pauline Corpus and the Book of Hebrews, thirteen New Testament books would then remain presupposed as Scripture by the anti-Paulinian proponent. However, after careful consideration by virtue of their respective affirmational testimonies of Paul, they, too- every single one- would be *disaffirmed if one asserts Paul to be a false apostle.

The body of Christian believers can be fully assured that Scripture reveals the Apostle Paul to indeed be the Apostle to the Gentiles. The Word of God stands on its own merit. God promises His people that His word will not pass away and endures forever and that ***"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*** -2 Timothy 3:16-17

** Disaffirmed by the nature of the inability of a specific writer of a New Testament Book to directly state that Paul is a false apostle, false brother, antichrist, and/or disaffirmed by the nature of other writers of New Testament Books affirming Paul's Apostleship.*

A Final Note

Word counts were recorded and percentages were tallied. For argument's sake, even if one removes the books of James, Matthew, Jude, and John- by implication that these eight books make no *direct* mention of Paul, nineteen New Testament Books yet directly or indirectly affirm the ministry of Paul. In addition;

- Thirteen (*fourteen with Hebrews*) of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament are attributed to Paul which comprises nearly half of **the entire New Testament**.
- One would have to admit that Almighty God, who inspired the Canonized New Testament, allowed ***54%** of its total words- to directly affirm Paul's Apostleship via; Luke's book of Acts, Peter's two books, and Paul's letters- **to be written by what Anti-Paulinians claim to be a false apostle**.
- This Anti-Paulinian belief system must also deduce that Almighty God allowed the genesis of the printed English Bible- as early as the Tyndale New Testament (completed in ****1526**)- which *included* Paul's writings, allowed thirteen of the twenty-seven books contained within Canonized Scripture **to affirm a false prophet for almost 500 years**.

The apostleship of Paul is taught within the Scriptural record. When Scripture is allowed to interpret Scripture there is no doubt that Almighty God used Paul in a powerful way to deliver the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

** Total New Testament words (apx.) 179,011. New Testament words attributed to Luke, Paul, and Peter are approximately 97,191. 97,191 words would account for 54% of the entire New Testament. Word count source: <https://www.biblebelievers.com/believers-org/kjv-stats.html>*

***Source <https://archive.org/details/firstnewtestame00tyndgoog>*

Note: All images used in this presentation were created by Wild Bill Grafix with royalty free images.

In Conclusion

When one allows Scripture to interpret Scripture (**2 Timothy 3:13-17**), the Apostleship of Paul is affirmed.

The testimony of Luke and Peter, writers of four combined books of the New Testament, directly affirms Paul's apostleship.

Of Luke in the book of Acts, the witness of the calling of Saul of Tarsus into the ministry as the Lord's 'chosen vessel' (**Acts 9:15**) - just as Scripture reveals Christ to have 'chosen' His disciples (**John 15:16**). Scripture reveals Paul to be ordained by Christ to *'bear' the Name of Christ before "...**Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel...**" (**Acts 9:15**). It must be stated in Luke's Gospel account, "**unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.**" (**Luke 12:10**) Luke speaking the words NOT given to him by the Holy Spirit would be dangerous for Luke.

**Bear; Greek word; "941. βαστάζω bastazo bas-tad'-zo; to lift, literally or figuratively (endure, declare, sustain, receive, etc.):--bear, carry, take up.)"- Source: <https://strongskoncordance.org/results.html?k=bear&p=9>*

One is unavoidably confronted with the fact that Paul's Apostleship does not come *first* by the testimony of Saul of Tarsus (Paul)- it comes by the testimony of Luke- a writer God chose to write over a quarter of the New Testament. Furthermore, Luke's testimony is of the testimony of Jesus Himself and that of Ananias- then, consequently, numerous other ministerial companions of Paul, in the Acts of the Apostles, that attest to Paul serving in the manner the Lord Jesus Christ foretold in **Acts 9**.

Subsequent testimony and witness to this affirmation of Paul's ministry, in the book of Acts, of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Barnabas, Timothy, Lydia, and Ananias, revealing attestations from a non-Pauline written book that Paul was chosen by God and fulfilled the role of an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Scriptural record of testimony reveals the Apostleship of Paul- of his letters, (*which Peter called Scripture*) himself; (**Romans 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 9:1-2, 2 Corinthians 11:7-12, Galatians 1:1-2, Ephesians 1:1-2, Philippians 1:15-17, Colossians 1:1, 1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 1:1, Titus 1:1-3**), Paul's Apostleship is affirmed by Luke's testimony (**Acts 9:4-20; 13:43-49, 14:14, 15:22-27**) and also by Peter's (**2 Peter 3:15-17**). Luke and Peter combined to write four other books of the New Testament. The proof of Paul's Apostleship is both in word and in deed. Just as the Lord worked miracles through His other Apostles- He worked these same miracles through Paul (*Approach A; A14*).

Dear reader, the Lord chose Paul and all His Apostles of the New Testament. God supernaturally enabled them to fulfill His purpose in bearing the testimony of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, first to the Jews, then to the Gentiles, and then to all the world.

This is the good news. There is freedom from the captivity of sin. This freedom is found in the God of the Universe- who, by the will of God- came down from heaven, took upon the nature of His own creation- yet who knew *no* sin- and though being God in human flesh- bore *our* sins on a cross to provide the way for mankind to be reconciled for the salvation of our souls and the justification to stand before the true Holy God of the Universe. It was only by the blood of the Word made flesh- God Himself- in the body upon the earth He fully dwelt in- Jesus of Nazareth, who alone is worthy- as a spotless Lamb to *eternally* satisfy the *eternal*

penalty of sinful man, being unable in both body and soul, to withstand by his own created faculties- the purity of the Holiness of God.

Do you know Jesus? Jesus is worthy of your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Just as that wonderful testimony of the Lord opening up the heart of Lydia, may the power of the Holy Spirit open your heart to know the greatest love known to mankind- when Christ laid down His own life so that the peace of God and eternal life through Christ may be known.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
-Philippians 2:5-12

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Appendix

**The Apostleship of Paul Reference Chart*

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS DISAFFIRMED BY ANTI-PAULINIAN CANONICAL ASSERTIONS DISAFFIRMATION IN CANONICAL ORDER	CANONICAL ORDER	NEW TESTAMENT BOOK	ANTI-PAULINIAN ASSERTIONS	PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP ASSURANCE	STUDY NOTES
Non-Pauline written New Testament proof texts that directly/indirectly affirm Paul's Apostleship					27 books of the New Testament and respective references directly or indirectly affirming the Apostleship of Paul
Matthew 10:2 affirms Peter; 2 Peter 3:15-17 affirms Paul	1	Matthew	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Affirms the Discipleship of Peter. Peter affirms Paul in 2 Peter 3:15-17 .
Peter affirms Marcus (Mark) 1 Peter 5:13	2	Mark	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	2 Timothy 4:11 , “...Take Mark...he is profitable to me for the ministry.” (Col 4:10)
Luke affirms Paul in Acts; Acts 9:1-20 ; Apostle 14:14	3	Luke	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Luke is the writer of the Book of Acts. Luke affirms the Apostleship of Paul. (Col 4:14)
John affirms Peter as a disciple in John 1:42	4	John	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Galatians 2:9 , (Peter mentioned 37 times in the Book of John and 109 total in Gospels)
Luke authenticates Paul via Ananias in Acts 9:10-17	5	Acts	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Luke affirms Paul in Acts 9:1-19 . The Lord speaks to Ananias of Paul (Acts 9:10-17).
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	6	Romans	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Romans 1:1-2; “a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle...” (2:15-16; 11:13.)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	7	1 Corinthians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	1 Cor 1:1 , “Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God...” (15:9)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	8	2 Corinthians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	2 Cor 1:1; 2:17 , “For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God...”
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	9	Galatians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Galatians 1:1 , “Paul, an apostle...” ; “(vs. 11-12...but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.)”
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	10	Ephesians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Ephesians 1:1 , “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God...”
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	11	Philippians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Philippians 4:3 , “...help those women which laboured with me in the gospel...”
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	12	Colossians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Colossians 1:1 , “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ...” (vs. 1:23 “...gospel...minister)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	13	1 Thessalonians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	1 Thess 1:5 , “...our gospel came... power...and in the Holy Ghost” , (trust with the Gospel)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	14	2 Thessalonians	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	2 Thess 2:13-14 , “God...Whereunto he called you by our gospel...” (vs. 2:15)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	15	1 Timothy	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	1 Timothy 1:1 , “Paul... apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior”
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	16	2 Timothy	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	All scripture given by inspiration of God. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 cf 2 Peter 3:15-17 .
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	17	Titus	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Titus 1:1 , “...an apostle of Jesus Christ.” (cf Titus 1:1-4)
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	18	Philemon	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Philemon 1:1 , “Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ...Timothy our brother, unto Philemon.”
Anti-Paulinian DISAFFIRMATION of Canonicity	19	Hebrews	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Heb 4:12 cf Acts 13:44-49. Heb 13:8 , “...our brother Timothy...”
Luke; record James; affirms Paul in Acts 15:12-40	20	James	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	James affirms the Apostleship of Paul in Galatians 2:9 . No contradiction in Titus 3:4-15).
Peter affirms Silvanus (Silas); Silas affirms Paul in Acts 15:40	21	1 Peter	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Peter affirms his own Apostleship in 1 Peter 1:1 . Refers to 'scripture' (2:6).
Peter affirms Paul 2 Peter 3:15-17	22	2 Peter	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Peter affirms Paul; 2 Peter 3:15-17 ; “...brother Paul...all his epistles... other scriptures.”
John affirms Peter's apostleship; affirmed by Luke in Acts 8:14-17	23	1 John	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	The Gospel writer John wrote: John 1, 2, 3 John , and Revelation for a total of 5 books.
2 John 1:9-11 and Acts 9:17, 16:14; 20:20	24	2 John	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	2:10-11 , “...receive him not into your house...” Acts 2:46; 9:17 (Ananias); 16:40; 20:20 .
3 Epistle of John written by John	25	3 John	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	1 Cor 1:14 , Acts 19:29
Jude 1:17-18 affirms Peter as an Apostle; 2 Peter 3:1-4	26	Jude	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	Jude 1:17-18 points to a reference in 2 Peter 3:1-2; 2:1 . 1 Timothy 4:1 .
The Revelation of Jesus Christ given to John. (<i>See Gal 1:12</i>)	27	Revelation	DISAFFIRMED	AFFIRMED	John the Gospel writer wrote the Book of Revelation. “the Revelation of Jesus Christ...”

REFERENCE CHART AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

To receive a PDF version of this document or to acquire a high-resolution file of the **The Apostleship of Paul Reference Chart* - appendix item AG01, Please email Bodyguard Christian Apologetics at thebodyguard777@gmail.com.

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*Cover Image: 'Blinded by the Light' - Created by Wild Bill Grafix
A graphical depiction of Saul of Tarsus overcome by the Light of the only Potentate- Jesus Christ*

The Apostle to the Gentiles

An Expository Study
Wes Hazlett
Bodyguard Christian Apologetics

THE Founded in 1998
BODYGUARD
A CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS MINISTRY

Earnestly contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints.

Addendum Postscript

About the Cover

“And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.” –Acts 9:1-6

The author wanted to capture imagery that gave the reader of ***The Apostle to the Gentiles*** perhaps even a modest glimpse of what Saul of Tarsus had seen in those life-changing moments that left Saul of Tarsus blinded by the glorious presence of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Saul of Tarsus was a man who knew the Scriptures as a student of the distinguished Pharisee and Rabbi Gamaliel. Imagine Saul recalling the writings of Moses or David at this divine moment on that road to Damascus. Imagine the blinding light that filled the skies around Saul and David’s words coming to his mind as he stood in the presence of the Creator of all light- God Almighty in Jesus of Nazareth.

“Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:” –Psalm 104:1-2

Paul’s words to King Agrippa, as recorded in ***Acts 26:13***, of what he saw, ***“...a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.”***

It was a presence similar to what Moses experienced thousands of years earlier by the burning tree that would not burn up (*A paradigm of how God Himself in Christ would take upon Himself the burning wrath of God on a tree and not burn the wood because He took the wrath upon Himself*). Moses would then go to Egypt, working the Miracles of God for the release of the captivity of the Hebrews. Similarly, it was a foreshadowing of how God would use Saul of Tarsus- drawing him out of Jewish religious zealotry to Jewish traditions and commandments of men (***Matthew 15:1-9***) to work the miracles of God and preach the Gospel to the Gentiles- making the freedom known in Christ that would release Gentiles from the captivity of sin by the grace of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
John 15:13

**The Apostle
to the Gentiles**