

**Text: Rm 1.1**

When I printed the bulletin, I had not settled on an opening text for this message. As I began thinking of it, the text came to me, but I wasn't going to print the bulletin again for this small detail!

Rm 1.1 ¶ Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Paul declares himself as a *slave* of Christ Jesus. Keep that term in your mind as we get ready for the message.

We are discussing the orthodoxy of Christian orthodoxy. Certain false teachers attack it. In the past, a man named Walter Bauer put up a challenge by claiming that the current orthodoxy is only the set of doctrines that won out and defeated other equally plausible forms of Christianity.

In the present day, another man, Bart Ehrmann popularly raises these same criticisms.

Our efforts showed that Jesus and the apostles taught a unified doctrine, a single orthodoxy *from which* false doctrine deviated.

In the providence of God, he left authoritative representatives behind who became the official arbiters of orthodoxy: the apostles.

The Bible shows they speak with a unified voice, but false teachers nonetheless attack their teaching, and try to make it out that the apostles had divisions among them. There are four main ways they claim this division:

1. A division between Jesus and Paul
2. A division between John and the Synoptics
3. A division between Paul and Paul (*i.e.* Paul in Acts and Paul in the Epistles)
4. A division between young Paul and old Paul so that he contradicted himself

Today we are going to look at:

*Jesus and Paul*

Remember our text:

Rm 1.1 ¶ Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Remember the word “bond-servant” (“slave”).

**Proposition:** The slave who contradicted his master would be a very poor slave indeed. Paul followed Jesus faithfully and always did his master’s bidding.

## I. The core message

### A. Paul

1 Cor 15.3-4 ¶ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

### B. Jesus

Mk 10.45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Mt 20.28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Mt 20.19 and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.”

Lk 9.22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.”

## II. Paul echoed Jesus

Rm 12.10 *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Jn 13.34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Rm 12.14 ¶ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Mt 5.44 “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Rm 12.17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

Mt 5.39 “But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Rm 13.7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Mk 12.17 And Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed at Him.

1 Cor 9.14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

Mt 10.10 or a bag for *your* journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

Lk 10.7 “Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.

1 Cor 11.23-26 ¶ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.” <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

### III. Paul expanded on Jesus’ teachings

#### A. The church

Mt 16.18 “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Mt 18.17 “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Ep 3.2-11 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;<sup>3</sup> that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.<sup>4</sup> By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,<sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;<sup>6</sup> *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,<sup>7</sup> ¶ of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.<sup>8</sup> To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;<sup>10</sup> so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.<sup>11</sup> *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Col 1.25-27 *Of this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God,<sup>26</sup> *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,<sup>27</sup> to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Rm 16.25-26 ¶ Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,<sup>26</sup> but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith;

## B. The Mission

Mt 10.5-6 ¶ These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the way of the Gentiles*, and do not enter *any city of the Samaritans*;<sup>6</sup> but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Mt 15.24 But He answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Jn 10.16 “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd.

Mt 28.19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Ac 9.15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

Ac 22.21 “And He said to me, ‘Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

### Conclusion:

**Proposition:** The slave who contradicted his master would be a very poor slave indeed. Paul followed Jesus faithfully and always did his master’s bidding.