

**Paul is desperate to tell you: "I did not get my gospel from Peter!"**

**B**ack in the day, I used to think that Peter got the one and only gospel from Jesus Christ, and started teaching it on Pentecost to the Jews. But because it was a big world, and because Peter was only one guy, God called Paul so that Paul could take *the same gospel* to the nations.

Galatians screwed all that up.

**"For I am making known to you, brethren, as to the evangel which is being brought by me, that it is not in accord with man. For neither did I accept it from a man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ." —Galatians 1:11-12**

Paul is trying to say as nicely as he can: "My message does not come from Peter." If that's not clear enough, how about this: "nor was I taught it." *Nor was I taught it?* The audacity. But wait. Paul is right. He never sat in Peter's classroom. Paul was minding his own business on the road to Damascus when he heard something from the glorified Christ that Peter had never even dreamed about.

**"Thereupon, after the lapse of fourteen years, I again went up to Jerusalem...in accord with a revelation, and submitted to them the evangel which I am heralding among the nations." —Galatians 2:2.**

If the gospel Paul heralded among the nations was the same one Peter heralded among the Jews, why does Paul have to go to Jerusalem fourteen years after his conversion and explain it to Peter?

On the following page are thirty-five differences between Peter's gospel and Paul's. *Grasp this revelation, and scripture will never appear to contradict itself again.* ■

# Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

*"If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong" --1 Cor. 13:1-2*



Two out of three isn't bad.

## I had to learn more about "Mr. Radical"



Paul seemed strange, and a tad dangerous.

*This was not reformation; it was revolution.*

Wherever I turned, Paul crapped on everything I thought I knew. Reading Paul was like wandering through a Fun House. Was it even real?

One day in 1985, someone told me about the Concordant Publishing Concern. I wrote for a list of their materials, and just the names of some of the publications floored me:

**THE BLASPHEMY OF THE SPIRIT; OVERWHELMING GRACE AND "UNPARDONABLE" SIN**

**THE NEW BIRTH CONTRASTED WITH THE NEW CREATION**

**THE "ONE BAPTISM"**

**LAW OR GRACE? THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT**

**THE GOSPEL OF OUR SALVATION**

**TORTURING DOUBTS or EXULTANT FAITH?**

**THE OUTCOME OF INFINITE GRACE**

**SPECIAL TRUTHS**

**TO ENLIGHTEN ALL AS TO THE SECRET**

**THE EVANGEL FOR TODAY**

**PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP**

**THE SECRET OF THE EVANGEL**

I sensed from these titles alone that there really was something going on with this Paul. I sent the CPC \$210 dollars and said "Send me one of everything." This included the Concordant Literal New Testament. I'll never forget the day in 1985 when the heavy box arrived. Looking back, that day was better than any Christmas. I started reading right there in my lawn chair, and haven't stopped yet (it's quite cold in the winter.) All my hunches about Paul got confirmed.

Paul is different. The grace he promotes is real. And yes, such grace does contrast with every other scripture. This does not mean that scripture contradicts itself, but that Paul brought a new revelation from the glorified Christ.

You can still order everything the CPC offers. Go to [www.concordant.org](http://www.concordant.org). The shopping cart is primitive in that you must add up your own order. Service is tortuously slow, so you'll probably get your stuff around Thanksgiving. Well, good. It will heighten your anticipation. The price today is five dollars more than it was in 1986: about \$215. It's the best investment you'll ever make. ■

**I** had suspected for a long time that Paul was different. I used to call him "Mr. Radical" and "Mr. Absolute." To me, Paul always went "over the top," going one step further than every other Bible writer. For instance, while the others wrote about how sin could screw up your safety in God, Paul wrote, "Where sin increases, grace superexceeds" (Rom. 5:20). Where the others touted law, Paul said, "We are reckoning a man to be justified by faith, apart from works of law" (Rom. 3:28). Everyone else carefully noted their pedigree. The crazy one said: "I was Hebrew of the Hebrews,...but I've counted it as dung" (Phil. 3:4-8). While the others looked forward to a future reward on earth, Paul said, "We are now seated among the celestials" (Eph. 2:6).

**"You're finished, Zender"**

And then there was works. It seemed everyone in the Bible recommended them—except Paul. Concerning salvation, *he* said: "If it's works, then it's no longer grace. And if it's grace, then it's no longer works." Those were pretty plain words; were they too radical to believe? The other writers exhorted me to change myself; they were reformers. Paul, on the other hand, had given up on me and my ilk, writing: "Reckon yourselves to have died with Christ," and "The old humanity has been crucified."

# Evangel of the Circumcision ..... Galatians 2:7

# Evangel of the Uncircumcision



**Peter**



To reconcile those on the earth....

In accord with prophets  
Acts 3:24-25

**TRADITIONAL**

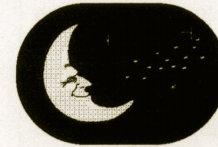
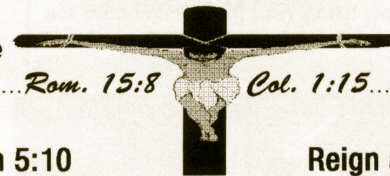
**Servant of the Circumcision**..... Rom. 15:8

Reign on earth → Revelation 5:10

## Jesus Christ

"Through Him, to reconcile all to Him (making peace through the blood of His cross), through Him, whether those on the earth or those in the heavens."

**Colossians 1:20**



To reconcile those in the heavens....

A secret until Paul  
Ephesians 3:8-10

**UNHEARD-OF**

**Firstborn of Every Creature**

Reign among celestials → Ephesians 2:6-7



**Paul**

Peter called in Israel (Mt. 4:18).....	Paul called outside Israel (Acts 9:3)
Proclaimed among Israelites (Js. 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:1).....	Proclaimed among the nations (Eph. 3:8)
Salvation <i>because of</i> Israel (Acts 10:30-32).....	Salvation <i>in spite of</i> Israel (Acts 13:6-12; Rom. 11:15)
Saints termed the bride of the Lambkin (Jn. 3:29; Rev. 21:9).....	Saints termed the body of Christ (Eph. 5:30)
Glory of the terrestrial (1 Cor. 15:40; Jn. 3:12).....	Glory of the celestial (1 Cor. 15:40; Jn. 3:12)
Racial distinctions important (Mt. 19:28; Rev. 21:12).....	Racial distinctions irrelevant (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28)
Believers known <i>from</i> the disruption of the world (Rev. 17:8).....	Believers known <i>before</i> the disruption of the world (Eph. 1:4)
Believers called first, then chosen (Mt. 22:14).....	Believers chosen first, then called (Rom. 8:30)
Will keep law (Mic. 4:2).....	Not under law (Rom. 6:14)
Water baptism required (Ac. 2:38).....	Water baptism not required (1 Cor. 1:17; 12:13)
Must be <i>begotten</i> anew ("born again"-Jn. 3:3).....	Are a new <i>creation</i> (2 Cor. 5:17)
Pardoned of guilt (that is, <i>forgiven</i> -Lk. 11:4).....	Not even guilty (that is, <i>justified</i> -Rom. 5:1)
The irreverent are condemned (2 Pet. 2:5-6).....	The irreverent are justified (Rom. 4:5)
Must have works, or faith is dead (Js. 2:20).....	Must <i>not</i> be working, only having faith (Rom. 4:5)
Must be an overcomer to avoid second death (Rev. 2:11).....	Saved from second death by grace alone (Eph. 2:8-9)
Must forgive others for God to forgive them (Mt. 6:15).....	Deal graciously with others as God has dealt graciously (Eph. 4:32)
Expecting grace (1 Pet. 1:13).....	Standing in grace (Rom. 5:2)
Not yet manifested what they shall be (1 Jn. 3:2).....	Are mirroring the Lord's glory (2 Cor. 3:18)
His manifestation is their change (1 Jn. 3:2).....	His manifestation is their manifestation (Col. 3:4)
Exhorted to toss worry on Him (1 Pet. 5:7).....	Exhorted not to worry about anything (Php. 4:6)
Exhorted to remain in Him (1 Jn. 2:28).....	Died with Him; He cannot disown Himself (2 Tim. 2:11,13)
Tend to have difficulty apprehending Paul (2 Pet. 3:15-16).....	Tend to apprehend both evangelists (2 Cor. 12:11)
Must be watching (Lk. 12:37; Heb. 9:28).....	Watching <i>or</i> drowsing (1 Thess. 5:10)
Can be put to shame at His presence (1 Jn. 2:28).....	Will be changed at His presence (1 Thess. 4:15-17; 1 Cor. 15:52)
Will go through day of indignation (Rev. 7:1-17).....	Not appointed to indignation (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9)
Will receive Christ on earth (Acts 1:11-12; Zech 14:4).....	Will meet Christ in air (1 Thess. 4:17)
Saved left, unsaved taken out (Mt. 24:38-41).....	Saved taken out, unsaved left (1 Thess. 4:17)
To be a kingdom of priests over nations (Rev. 2:26-27; Is 61:6).....	To have an allotment among the celestials (Eph. 2:6)
Will fill earth with knowledge of God's glory (Hab. 2:14).....	Will dispense God's wisdom among the celestials (Eph. 3:10-12)
Will judge twelve tribes of Israel (Mt. 19:28).....	Will judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3)
Will have access to temple courts (Rev. 7:15).....	Have access to the Father Himself (Eph. 2:18)

# Rants & Stuff

The Apostle Paul says we should not murmur (Philippians 2:14). Therefore, I shall rant.

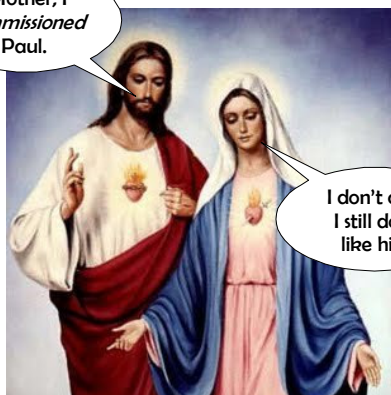
## Jesus won't be mad if you choose Paul

PAUL WROTE THE WORDS OF THE VIVIFIED CHRIST

If you're like me, the words of Christ written in blood red in your Bible kind of scared you. I wanted to be like Jesus when I was a kid, but Jesus kept setting the bar just a little too high. He didn't seem to have much of a sense of humor, either. Whenever people asked Him a question, He didn't say, "Well, let me tell you, that's a good one, because honestly..." Instead, He answered everything in a roundabout way. Ask Him what time dinner was, and He would tell you a parable about Jonah. Get comfortable for a second, and He would predict His death. Ask Him when things would finally be good again, and He would say, "Woe to those suckling children in those days."

He was not much fun at a party.

Mother, I commissioned Paul.



I don't care. I still don't like him.

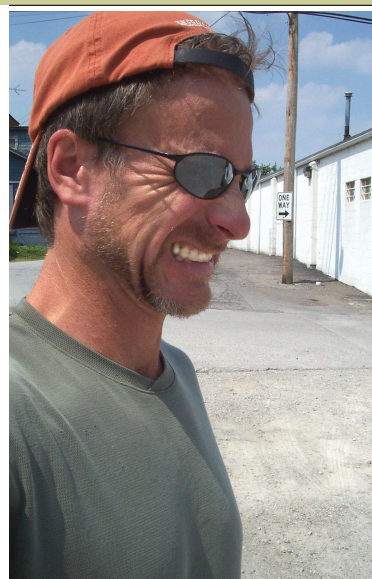
I'm not saying that Paul was Mr. Pin the Tail on the Donkey, but the dark cloud that seemed to surround Jesus—in my mind—disappeared with Paul. Paul was like,

"Grace and peace. Whatever. Stop screwing your stepmother, please. But anyway, we're all justified." He seemed really scatterbrained and had no idea how to punctuate a sentence, but the dark cloud was gone.

I pictured him short and just a little bit chubby. He was the kind of guy who would drink beer on a boat

and say, "Are we there yet? I'd like to see Antioch before the Second Coming."

From Abraham to Moses to Paul, God unveils His heart. The farther God goes, the more of His heart we see. The law of Moses was not the real Him; it prepared



the way for Christ. Christ was His image, but even He was a minister of the Circumcision (Rom. 15:8) and purposely hid the depths of His Father's grace. *That* message was saved for the little lunatic from Tarsus en route to Damascus to kill Christians.

Paul's message is: RELAX AND DON'T WORRY. Does that resonate as much with you as it does with me? That's my message!

Some of you want to believe what I'm saying, but you're not sure. You may be feeling that to travel with Paul is to abandon Jesus. You have an emotional attachment to Jesus. You have spent most your reading time in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. You're drawn to Paul, but you feel guilty whenever you're not depressed (!) *WWJD?*

Jesus would want you to turn to Paul. Why wouldn't He? Jesus commissioned Paul. Ultimately, you are honoring the Savior by turning from the letters in red to the latest, greatest revelation given to man. ■

## "Different, but not another"

Paul writes to the Galatians in 1:9—

**"I am marveling that thus, swiftly, you are transferred from that which calls you in the grace of Christ, to a different evangel, which is not another, except that some... want to distort the evangel of Christ."**

Paul recognizes here that there was another evangel operating, namely, the evangel (gospel) of the Circumcision. But at the same time, there was a different "evangel" afoot that was *not an-*

other—that is, it was not the evangel of the Circumcision. It was a distortion of the two legitimate evangels; a bastardized, Frankenstein message that mixed law and grace.

Paul acknowledged the legitimacy of Peter's gospel (law), and his own (grace). Yet the "evangel" that mixed the key elements of each could not even be called another gospel. Paul so hated it that he called down a curse upon it (see verses 8 and 9). This cursed gospel is the mainstream message of modern Christianity. ■

## "Of," not "to"

In Galatians 2:7, we read of "the evangel *of* the Uncircumcision," and "the evangel *of* the Circumcision." The KJV and the Concordant Version both have "of," but the NIV and NASB mistakenly make this "to." What a big difference between "of" and "to."

"Of" acquaints us with the kind, "to" with the location. If I play the music *to* the Japanese and you play the music *to* the Mexicans, we may be playing the same music. But if I play the music *of* the Japanese and you play the music *of* the Mexicans, we are playing different tunes. Peter and Paul are definitely different tunes!

"Of" is clearly indicated in the three oldest Greek manuscripts. ■