

When Did the Apostle Paul Leave the Christian Church? And Why?

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Paul was one of the stalwarts of the Christian church. He was a Pharisee – a Hebrew among Hebrews!

We must remember that God, neither in the forty years of the Israelites in the wilderness, nor in Israel – the “Promised Land” – ever set up a “Church.” In the wilderness, during the Exodus from Egypt, God told Moses to build a sanctuary “. . . that I may dwell among them.” Ex 25:8

The sanctuary was designed to teach the Israelites, few, if any of whom, could read or write, God’s Plan of Salvation. God’s command for both the temporary sanctuary in the wilderness and the permanent temple in Jerusalem, was that NO ONE was allowed to go inside, except the priests, under penalty of DEATH!

God made it very clear that He didn’t want His followers to go into a specifically designed structure to be taught – by men – about God. God says in His Word, that HE is our Teacher (Matt 23:8), and He will teach us directly – one on one – through His Word, the Bible, with no one in between.

Synagogues

In the New Testament, for the first time, we see Synagogues – buildings where people come inside, sit down, and “man” tells the people what to believe about God. The synagogues, set up by the Pharisees, were in existence simultaneously with God’s Temple. God’s presence resided in the Temple – NOT in the synagogues. Thus, the synagogues were a counterfeit religion, even though they claimed to be teaching the religion of the Israelites.

The Israelites were looking forward to Christ, the Messiah, therefore they were Christians – not Jews, according to the term that is used today. The word “Jew” does not appear in the Bible. It is a mistranslation of the word “Iudean” – or Judean – referring to a person who worshiped the one true God in the temple in Jerusalem, in Judea, as opposed to the nations (mistranslated “Gentiles”) who worshiped many pagan gods.

The model for today's "Organized church"

It is important to understand that the synagogues – the COUNTERFEIT "Christian" church – of Christ's time, was/is the model for today's churches, a model that was NOT set up – nor approved - by God!

Saul/Paul

Saul of Tarsus was one of the important leaders in the Organized "Church" of the day – the Synagogues. Saul was a Pharisee of Pharisees. He was a "teacher of the law" – a term embarrassingly mistranslated as "lawyer" in the King James and other versions of the Bible. "Teachers of the law" did not mean "lawyer" as we define the term today, it meant a teacher of the numerous burdensome laws of the traditions of the Pharisees, that Jesus so strongly rebuked as "making the Scriptures of none effect." (Mark 7:13)

Three centuries after Christ, when those numerous and chokingly burdensome laws were written down by the Pharisees, they became the Talmud, the "holiest" book of the Jews. And thus was the beginning of Judaism – and Jews - three centuries AFTER Christ.

Saul, the Pharisee, was so certain that the doctrines of the Synagogues were correct, that he spent his life as a Pharisee, persecuting those who did not believe as he did. Approving of their murderous attacks on God's true believers, Saul held the coats of those who were stoning Stephen. Later, he received permission from his superiors to arrest, persecute, and ultimately kill those who were actually the true Christians – the followers of Jesus Christ – a "Man" the Pharisees despised.

Saul was proud to be a Pharisee, a group that Jesus referred to as vipers, hypocrites, the synagogue of Satan, and ". . . of your father, the devil" – for which they had Jesus killed. Saul felt he was then obligated to obliterate from the face of the earth every follower of Jesus that he could get his hands on.

On the Road to Damascus

The story of Saul of Tarsus traveling the Road to Damascus to arrest and persecute the true followers of Jesus Christ is well known to most Christians. What Christians don't understand is that it was on the Road to Damascus, that Saul actually **left** the "Christian" church.

The synagogues were organized in a hierarchy, with strong traditions, and supreme control over practically every moment in the life of an Israelite. Jesus

actually referred to the Israelite “Christian” members of the organized church (the synagogues) as “Unbelievers” when He said the following:

“And Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Unbelievers lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant.”
Matt 10:42,43

Jesus told His disciples that there were to be no “rulers” among His true followers – except Himself. There were to be none who “exercised authority over them” – except Himself. And those who wished to be “great” among the true believers, would be servants, just as Jesus was.

“The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve.” Matt 20:28

These directives by Christ are the antithesis of today’s Organized church.

When Jesus suddenly appeared to Saul on the Road to Damascus, saying, “Saul, Saul, Why are you persecuting Me,” Saul didn’t even know who Jesus was. He answered, “Who are you, Lord?” Christ responded, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.”

Here was Saul, a leader in the Organized “Christian” Church of the day, and didn’t even know His own Messiah.

Saul was immediately blinded and had to be helped by his fellow travelers during the rest of the trip. His physical blindness correlated with his spiritual blindness as a Pharisaical member of the Organized church of the day! Only when a person recognizes his overwhelming need to understand truth will he be able to “see” Jesus.

How are we able to “see” God?

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall **SEE** God” (they shall understand God’s truth) Matt 5:8

How and when was Job able to “see” God?

Only after Job had lost his family, his wealth of possessions, and his health, did Job finally “see” God. In the last chapter of Job, he says the following to God:

“I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye hath seen Thee.” Job 42:5

Unfortunately, most Christians have only “heard about” God through “the hearing of the ear.” Few have ever “seen” Him, as Job did.

Yet Jesus’ mission was:

“To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out the prisoners from the prison (of sin), and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.” Isaiah 42:7

To the final ecclesia in time, the ecclesia of Laodecia, the “Christian” church of today, God says:

“And anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” Rev 3:18

Saul/Paul was finally able to SEE

God appointed Ananias to heal Paul’s eyesight,

“And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith. . .”Acts 9:18

Paul, who biblically describes himself as the “worst of sinners” was converted to Jesus Christ in an instant. Notice that Saul/Paul was not “looking for Christ” when he was converted. He was on the road to Damascus to arrest and persecute true Christians. Notice also that Saul/Paul was not looking for conversion to the group of true followers of Christ that Saul believed were heretics.

Saul was converted by sight

Saul/Paul was converted to Jesus Christ by sight – NOT by faith. Faith means one believes without having seen. Thomas believed Christ was risen ONLY when Thomas could SEE the scars in Jesus’ hands and in His side.

Paul also believed ONLY when he SAW Jesus, on the Road to Damascus. **And when Paul was converted, he was no longer a member of the Organized church** – which was led by James, the step-brother of Christ. And it was that very “church” that hounded Paul for his entire ministry, trying repeatedly to kill him.

Finally, by the members of the organized church bringing false charges against Paul, he was put on trial, and appealed to Caesar, since Saul/Paul was a Roman by birth. In Rome, Paul was tried and found guilty, and likely died by decapitation.

The Leaders of the Organized Church were responsible for the deaths of both Paul and Jesus Christ

It was the leaders and members of the organized church of the day who were responsible for the deaths of both Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul.

Thinking they're doing God a service. . .

“They shall put you out of the synagogues, yea, the time cometh, that whosoever kills you will think that he does God service.” John 16:2

The Second Beast of Revelation, Chapter 13

The second beast of Revelation 13, world-wide apostate Christianity (looks like a Lamb – Jesus Christ, but speaks as a dragon (Satan), will have the power to kill the “true Christians” who refuse to worship the image of the beast. They kill, because they worship a “Killer” God – a God who KILLS His enemies, even though Jesus Christ said,

“Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. . .” Matt 5:44

Why did Saul/Paul LEAVE the “Christian” Church?

In order to “see” God, in order to have a pure heart, in order to understand how to live the Christian life, in order to understand the truth of God’s Word, Paul had to Leave the Organized “Christian” Church of his day.