

# PAUL'S *Transformation*

The first thing that comes to mind for most Christians when they read the title of this sheet is Paul's Damascus road experience and the resulting change in Paul's life. The intent of this article is to point out the Christian transformation of the Apostle Paul, in Christian theology. Today most Christians recognize Paul as the Supreme Religious Christian Authority. At this point most Christians are thinking something like "What is this about?" Some will say; "Jesus is our supreme authority!" While others will say, "God is our supreme authority!"

But, when push comes to shove, do they really? Or have they (perhaps unwittingly) turned the Apostle Paul into their High Priest of Christian Theology? The foundation of many Denominations seems to be based on their concept of the Trinity. Though they would never say it, most tend to behave and act as though the Trinity refers to the Father, Son and Apostle Paul; with the Apostle Paul being greatest of them all!

This seems to happen, even when the Heavenly Father says something and Jesus confirms it, with the Prophets and all of the Disciples and other Apostles supporting and reaffirming this statement. If Paul appears to say something differently, then by all means the words of Paul become supreme. At least that is in the minds of far too many Christians. For them the words of Paul will overrule them all!

In far too many Church's, it is as though Paul has become the supreme embodiment of the Holy Spirit. With Paul's authority (in the minds of many Christians) being absolute. It is as though, what ever Paul said, was and is, the only true and complete expression of the Holy Spirit. In most of Christianity's theological practices this means, in effect, he has been elevated almost to divine status. Because if Paul says something or at least appears to (in that translation), then that seals it, in the minds of most Christian theologians, even when it would overrule the authority of Almighty God the Father and His Son. This transforms the Apostle Paul into the final and totally supreme authority on everything. Thereby setting his SEAT OF AUTHORITY and his words, above both Almighty God and His Son!

Many people have tended to elevate their concept of Jesus such that He becomes equal to, or even greater than His Father, as they read through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Yet, as they continue reading, from the latter part of Acts and on into the Epistles of Paul, there is a subtle transition, so that the words of Paul become cunningly elevated even above the words of Jesus, in far too many Christian Denominations.

Even so, a great number of Churches will claim that Paul, in his early ministry, kept BACKSLIDING into Judaism. However, they believe that Paul was finally able to overcome this problem and became a true Christian.

When Christians endeavor to establish a Doctrine, by using Paul's testimony in his Epistles, shouldn't they also require at least two or more additional confirming passages to be present from other witnesses in Scripture?

## **Deuteronomy 19:15** (NIV)

(15) ... A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

## **Numbers 35: 30** (NIV)

(30) "... 'But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.'"

## **Deuteronomy 17: 6** (NIV)

(6) On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

## **Matthew 18:16** (NIV)

(16) "..., so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

## **1 Timothy 5:19** (NIV)

(19) "Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses."

## **Hebrews 10:28** (NIV)

(28) Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

## **2 Corinthians 13:1** (NIV)

(1) ... "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

## **2 Peter 3:15-16** (NIV)

(15) Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

(16) He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.