

FOLLOWING PAUL

DO WE MAKE TOO MUCH OF HIM?

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

- 1 Corinthians 11:1

1. Too Much Paul?

- a. We learned before that a mid-Acts (Pauline) perspective changes everything
- b. God tells us to follow Paul – 1 Cor 4:16, 11:1, Phil 3:17, 2 Thess 3:7
- c. If you say “follow Paul”, the response will be, “you make too much of Paul”
- d. “Following Jesus” was made popular by the social gospel folks of WWJD
- e. How ought we to follow Jesus? John 13:36, under the Law of Moses? Mat 23:3

2. Following is not Worshipping

- a. To Follow = to imitate, to pattern after; it does not mean to worship
- b. Paul was not worthy of worship – Rom 7:24; 1 Cor 15:9-10
- c. He was the pattern of someone undeserving of salvation - 1 Tim 1:11-16
- d. We follow the ministry, not the man; people follow men - Gal 1:8
- e. Paul glories in the Lord more than the rest – Gal 6:14, Eph 3:14, Col 1:18

3. The Lord Sent Him

- a. Paul was a chosen vessel of the Lord - Acts 9:10-16
- b. Paul is an apostle of Jesus Christ – 1 Cor 9:1-2, Gal 1:1, 11
- c. He is an apostle to the Gentiles, his office is magnified - Romans 11:13, 15:16
- d. His authority is at least equal to that of Peter’s - Galatians 2:7-9, 2 Pet 3:15-16
- e. Not a whit behind: 2 Cor 11:5, 22-26; proven: 2 Cor 12:12; last of all: 1 Cor 15:8

4. His Gospel is What Saves

- a. He is the dispenser of the gospel of God’s grace – Acts 20:24, 1 Cor 9:6-17
- b. It is a mystery of the gospel – Eph 6:19, salvation freely to all
- c. It is the gospel of the mystery – Eph 3:1-9, manifold wisdom of God
- d. Paul is sent with the preaching of the cross – 1 Cor 1:17-18, 22-23
- e. Anyone saved by Christ today will trace their gospel back to Paul: 1 Cor 4:15

5. Paul Followed Christ According to the Mystery

- a. He did not know Christ not after the flesh – 2 Cor 5:16
- b. He relished in the wisdom of God in the mystery – 1 Cor 2:7-8
- c. He built on the foundation of Christ (according to the mystery) – 1 Cor 3:10-11
- d. He was a faithful steward of the mysteries – 1 Cor 4:1-2
- e. He sought God’s glory according to the mystery – Col 1:27, 1 Cor 10:33

6. He is Diminished by Everyone Else

- a. On Paul’s message of Christ we succeed or fail – 2 Tim 2:7-8
- b. All in Asia turned away from Paul - 2 Tim 1:15, 4:16
- c. They thought Paul was a liar – Gal 1:20, 1 Tim 2:7, 2 Cor 11:31
- d. “I, Paul” - He had to prove his apostleship in every epistle, and so will you.
- e. We need more Paul followers, to walk in his steps – 2 Tim 2:2, Phil 4:9