



Al-Wifaq Research Journal of Islamic Studies Volume 5, Issue 1 (January - June 2022)

elSSN: 2709-8915, plSSN: 2709-8907

Journal DOI: https://doi.org/10.55603/alwifaq. Issue Doi: https://doi.org/10.55603/alwifaq.v5i1. Home Page: https://alwifaqjournal.com/

Journal QR Code



Article

The Impact of St. Paul's Personality on the Christian Religion: A Critical Overview

Authors

Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Farooq Abdullah ¹ Dr. Zafar Iqbal ²

Affiliations

- ¹ Department of Interfaith Studies, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- ² Department of Quran and Tafseer, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Published

30 June 2022

Article DOI

https://doi.org/10.55603/alwifaq.v5i1.e3





Citation

Farooq Abdullah, Dr. Hafiz Muhammad. and Zafar Iqbal, Dr. "The Impact of St. Paul's Personality on the Christian Religion: A Critical Overview", Al-Wifaq, June 2022, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 25–40





The Impact of St. Paul's Personality on the Christian Religion: A Critical Overview © 2022 by Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Farooq Abdullah & Dr. Zafar Iqbal is licensed

under <u>CC BY 4.0</u>

Publisher Information:

Department of Islamic Studies, Federal Urdu University of Arts Science & Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan.















The Impact of St. Paul's Personality on the Christian Religion: A Critical Overview

Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Faroog Abdullah *

Dr. Zafar Iqbal **

ABSTRACT

The modern Christianity that has been going on in the world for many centuries is not the initial Christianity that was brought by the Prophet Jesus (PBUH). Now it consisted on a pretended and mixed faith, which St. Paul's was invented for his popularity. In the life of Hazrat Eesa bin Maryam (PBUH), Paul was his staunch opponent and he had never met him. After Jesus was taken up to heaven, this man suddenly began to sing in sympathy and harmony, and began to show excessive devotion to Jesus. In order to spread his beliefs widely, Paul made a mixture of the fanatical beliefs of the Greeks, Christians and Sun-worshipers and declared it to be true Christianity. The fact is that after Jesus (PBUH) his twelve disciples began to spread the teachings of Jesus (PBUH) on the planet with great zeal, and with great speed people began to abandon the outdated traditions of Judaism and started to join Christianity. The Jewish priests of that time were disturbed to see that their glory was in danger because of Christianity. To prevent this, St. Paul from Judaism announced that he had converted from Judaism to Christianity. And he gains the sympathy of other disciples by telling the story of Jesus descent upon himself. And he engages in the preaching of Christianity and shows such zeal that, he pushes the rest of the disciples into the background and even proclaims Prophecy in the name of revelation. He severely persecuted the followers of Christ in the enmity of Jesus and even martyred some. As a Jew, he used to go to his synagogue, a place of worship. Gradually he stopped going to Sina Gag too. He told his Christian followers that one day, fourteen years after Jesus, he came to him in a dream and demanded that he renounce violence against his followers. Paul said that after that incident his world changed and he repented of all his oppression. This article will provide a critical overview of St. Paul's personality in the light of the Bible and his impact in the modern Christianity.

KEYWORDS:

Bible, Christianity, Judaism, Jesus (PBUH), Prophecy, Revelation

A study of the divine books reveals that, there is a basic teaching of monotheism in all religions. It is a different matter whether those who follow those religions understand the true meaning of Tawheed or not. In Christianity, Paul introduced a new theory to the world by changing the

* Assistant Professor, Department of Interfaith Studies, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad.

^{**} Assistant Professor, Department of Quran and Tafseer, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad.

origin of Christianity. Paul invented the doctrine of the Trinity, the Son of God, the Holy Spirit (three Gods) .Whereas the Torah's law book teaches the monotheism of God. ¹

Those who believe in Jesus are called Christians. Christians believe in the Torah that was revealed to Moses, which is called the Old Testament, and Christians also believe in the New Testament, which is called the Gospel of Christ. The combination of the two is called the Bible. Now the Torah, which is a book of Shari'ah for Christians, teaches monotheism to believe in one God, and it expresses a strong aversion to polytheism. Which was in accordance with the teachings of Jesus and other prophets.

After the resurrection of Christ, the apostle Paul introduced the doctrine of the Trinity into Christianity. And later his followers converted the original teaching of Christian monotheism into Trinity. While the basic belief of one God is also present in their own religious books.

St. Paul had nothing to do with Jesus, but as long as Jesus was in the world, he was a staunch opponent of him, even fourteen years after his ascension to heaven². Because he was a staunch Jew, and St. Paul, in his hostility to Jesus, severely tortured his followers and even martyred some.³ As a Jew, he used to go to his synagogue, a place of worship, as Judaism ruled the world before Jesus.Gradually he stopped going to Sina Gag too.

He told his Christian followers that one day, fourteen years after Jesus, he came to him in a dream and demanded that he renounce violence against his followers. Paul said that after that his world changed and he repented of all his oppression. He became a true follower of Jesus. So, with this tactic he finally succeeded in making his place in the hearts of Christians. As Patrick Tshibangu writes

"The apostle Paul, and he saw amazing things concerning the end time prophecy."4

During his travels in different parts of the world, he came in contact with people who were atheists or worshiped the sun and the moon. The doctrine of the Trinity was already working in these nations in a different way. Since Paul was a shrewd and clever man and wanted to establish himself among the Christian followers, he planned to spread these beliefs among the Christians. He was an expert in writing and speaking. So with this ability he soon made his place in Christianity. He began to say that an angel came to him in a dream who wanted to further improve Christian teachings. In this way he started a change in Christianity which was completely different from the original teachings of Jesus. As a result, the Christian nation was divided into sects and conflicts and differences arose in their beliefs.

What was the religion of Jesus?

It is not right to attribute the present Christianity to Jesus because Jesus was the religion of Moses and Jesus has been preaching the Law of Moses all his life and has always shown his mission to reform the Jews. Thus, according to the Gospel of Matthew, Christ says:

"Do not believe that I have arrived to obliterate the Torah or the prophetic books; rather, I have come to fulfil them. For verily I said to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not a jot or a tittle of the law shall vanish from the law, until all is fulfilled. So, whomever disobeys and teaches these guys any of these little laws will be considered the greatest liar in the heavenly kingdom, so whoever obeys and preaches them in the kingdom of god will be called great".6

In this scripture, the standard of honor and disgrace in the kingdom of heaven is stated only in the observance of the Law of Moses. Then when Prophet Jesus (PBUH) selects his twelve apostles and bids them farewell. So, he instructs them to teach the Torah and to convey the message only to the Children of Israel:

"Jesus sent these twelve men and commanded them not to go to the Gentiles and not to enter any Samaritan city, but to go to the lost sheep' of the children of Israel." 7

Then someone asks Christ how I can have eternal life and salvation. So, the answer was to follow the commands of the Torah. Since the substance of charity was especially dead in the Children of Israelat that time, they are specially taught about charity and self-sacrifice for Allah by the Jesus (PBUH).

"A man approached and said to him (Jesus): Master! What good can I do to have eternal life? He said, "Why do you ask me about goodness? There is only one goodness (i.e., God is free from all faults)." But if you want to enter (eternal) life, then follow (the Torah's) commands". 8

Jesus taught the Torah all his life and was busy disseminating its teachings. For a while after Christ's death all his disciples agreed that Christ did not bring any new religion. They did not even consider it necessary to write down the writings of Jesus Christ.

Introduction of St. Paul

Paul's original Hebrew name was Saul or Shaul, which literally means "Ask from the God."9

Paul's early life is not much known. However, the book of Acts reveals that he was a strict Pharisee from the tribe of Benjamin, whose real name was Shaul. This is explained by St. Paul's letter to the Philippians .

"On the eighth day I was circumcised. I am the nation of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. The Hebrew of the Hebrews and I am Pharisees according to the law". 10

Paul was from Rome, as explained in the book of Acts, in which Paul spoke of himself,

"The Sipah leader replied that he had acquired the status of a Roman by paying a large sum of money. Paul said, "I am a Roman by birth.".¹¹

Here is an introduction to Paul from the Encyclopedia of Britannica.

"Saint Paul, the Apostle, whose original name was Saul of Tarsus (born 4 BC in Tarsus, Cilicia, now Turkey—died c. ad 62–64 in Rome, Italy), was a leader of first generation of Christianity and is often regarded as the second most important figure in Christian history." ¹²

James Stalker writes about Paul.

"Paul developed an exceptional form of Christian character as a result of his conversion to Christianity. In the person of its Founder, it already had the perfect model of the human character. Our Lord, on the other hand, was not like other men since He had no sinful impurity to contend with from the start; and Christianity still had to demonstrate what it could do with flawed human nature. The opportunity to show this was provided by Paul. He was a man of enormous mental stature and might".¹³

Prophet Jesus (PBUH) did not name his followers as "Christians or Christ" nor did he introduce a new religion or form a separate group. He brought Hazrat Musa and other prophets. However, going forward, among the later followers of Jesus (PBUH), St. Paul, ended the observance of the law and announced that simply believing in Christ is enough for salvation.

Paul's Revelations and Greek Philosophy

The religion that Jesus taught was abolished shortly after his departure, and the foundation of the new religion is contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Thus, on the basis of Revelation, Paul introduced Greek philosophy into Christianity. This is also acknowledged by Christian scholars.

John Alexander Hammerton's words are explained in the following way:

"The early attempts to interpret the mystery of the Christian faith in terms of Greek philosophy were prompted by the Church's encounter with the Hellenic culture. Even

throughout St. Paul's epistles, there are evidence of this.".14

The Christian Church has long had a relationship with Greece, attempting to explain the mysteries of Christianity through Greek philosophy. Even St. Paul's letters include traces of it.

James Hastings describes it. It has been with St. Paul he owed much to the Greek Philosophy and thought. ¹⁵

The present Christianity and the edited Holy book came into being through the efforts of St. Paul after Jesus and came to this form in about three hundred years, so it can be said that the founder of modern Christianity is not Jesus but Paul whose Thirteen letters are part of the New Testament. Based on the revelation, Paul called his letters as the Gospel. See the Paul claim in Galatians.

"Brothers! Let me tell you that the gospel I preached is not from man. Because it did not come to me from man nor was it taught to me but was revealed to me by Jesus Christ". ¹⁶

Paul's Claim of Prophethood

The same Paul later suddenly claims to be a Christian and is brought before King Agrippa on the complaint of the Jews .There Paul defends himself before Agrippa in a speech in which he himself admits how much he opposed Christianity.

"I also thought that it was my duty to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth in any way. So, I did this in Jerusalem and took authority from the high priests and imprisoned many pious people and when they killed, I used to give the same opinion when I used to go. And I used to punish them in every synagogue and force them to be called as disbelievers. On the contrary, I was so mad against them that I went to other cities and persecuted them." 17

Paul himself admits his opposition.

"And the churches of Judaea which were in Jesus Christ were not acquainted with me. But they only heard who was bothering us first, He now preaches the gospel of the same religion he used to destroy earlier." ¹⁸

Paul then claims the appearance of revelation upon himself, saying that Jesus addressed me as God and asked me why you persecute me like this. So Paul's point of view changes and he says in his own words. That I did not disobey this heavenly revelation .What's more, he is now turning his affiliation to Moses and the other Prophets (Peace be upon Them). 19

The book of Acts further uncovers that after Jesus was taken up to heaven, he suddenly claimed that a light had descended on him and that he had been addressed by Jesus. And since that incident Paul has lost his sight

and has been blind for three days. This incident is explained in the book of Acts.

"When St. Paul was wandering near Damascus, he was suddenly surrounded by a bright light from the sky. They collapsed to the ground, and a voice said to them, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" "Who are you, my lord?" Saul inquired. "I am Jesus Christ, whom you persecute." However, get up and travel to the city, where you will be instructed on what to do. Because they could hear the voice but couldn't see anyone, the men with him stayed mute. And Saul rose from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he saw nothing, so they grabbed his hand and carried him to Damascus. Paul didn't see for three days, and he didn't hear for three days, nor did Paul eat."²⁰

According to the book of Acts, after this incident, a man named Ananias in Damascus comes to Jesus in a dream, and orders him to go to Paul and see him by the command of Christ. And after this incident Saul changed his name Paul retains and declares his conversion to Christianity.²¹

In the end, Paul calls himself an apostle.

"From Paul, a servant of the Lord and an apostle of Jesus Christ. According to the faith of the chosen ones of God and the recognition of the truth which is in accordance with piety".²²

Repeal of Torah law by St. Paul

When Paul named a new religion after Jesus, his own Jewish people turned against him, calling him an antichrist and not following him. So, the biggest obstacle in Paul's way was the law of the Torah which required circumcision. To change the doctrine of the Torah, Paul developed the doctrine that salvation depended on faith in Jesus alone. No human being needs to be purified by following the law of Shariah. This belief led to the beginning of atonement in Christianity.

Paul says in Galatians

"And it is evident that no one can be honest with his Lord by means of the law. Because it is written that the believer will live by faith. And the law has nothing to do with faith but it is written that whoever obeys them will live on account of them". 23

Paul's blasphemy against the law of the Prophets

St. Paul also called the law miserable and cursed. Whereas Shariat is the name of divine law. That is, there is no need for Paul to follow any law. See his Epistle to the Galatians.

"So those who believe are blessed with the faithful Abraham. Because all those who rely on the deeds of Shariah are subject to misfortune. Therefore, it is written that anyone who does not insist on doing all that is written in the book of Shari'ah is rejected. And it is evident that no one can be honest with his Lord by means of the law." ²⁴

According to Paul, all those who rely on the works of the law are cursed, and no one is justified and righteous before God because of the law. It is clear here that when Paul forbade the practice of the law, he was calling for his own self-made law, and wanted to rebel against the law of Jesus Christ.

In Galatians, at another place Paul says:

"Know ye also, that a man is justified by faith in Jesus Christ, and not by righteous deeds? We ourselves believe in Jesus Christ so that we may be true. Not because of the righteous deeds of the law. Because no human being will be justified by the righteous deeds of the law." ²⁵

In another place, the Paul declares the Shari'ah to be only for the rebellious and, haraam people. He says this while blatantly insulting the prophets.

With the knowledge that the law is made for those who have no regard for the rules and order, for evil men as well as sins, for the unholy and those who have no religious practice, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for life takers, for those who go within a week of loose women, for those who have abnormal wishes, for those who take men detainees, for those who make misstatements and false oaths, and for those who do anything else that is contrary to the right.²⁶

Galatians quotes Paul in these words:

I do not scorn God's grace, since if righteousness is obtained through the law, Christ's death would have been in vain. 27

Paul's opposition to the law: Contrary to the Teachings of the Bible

Opposing Paul's law is contrary to the teachings of the Bible itself. According to the book Leviticus in the Old Testament, God Himself commands the observance of the Shari'ah.

"I am the Lord, so obey my laws" 28

And it is written in the book of Psalms.

"Blessed are those who are perfect, who follow the law of the Lord". 29

The book of Deuteronomy curses the denier of the law.

"Cursed be those who do not adhere to the words of this law,

and all the people say, Amen." 30

In all of the above verses, God has strictly commanded to follow the law. This command is present in the Torah, so following the Torah will be following the law of Prophet Moses and after the law of Moses is the law of Jesus. Therefore, the blasphemy of the law by Paul falls on the law of all the prophets.

Paul's insult to Jesus

In a letter to Galatians, see how much respect Paul had for Jesus in his heart.

Because it is written in the Writings, "A curse on everybody who is sentenced to death by hang on a tree," Christ has set us free from the law's curse by becoming a curse for us. 31

How can a person be a spokesman for the religion of that leader, who curses his own leader? Isn't this a clear insult to Jesus which Paul has done? And Paul's statement that what is hung on a stick is a curse is written in the book of Exodus.

"A person can commit a sin that deserves the death penalty. When he is killed, his body can be hung on a tree. When this happens, his body should not stay on the tree all night. Why should you bury him on this very day? For he that is hanged on a tree is cursed by God. You must not defile the land that the Lord your God is giving you to live in." ³²

The Old Testament phrase "the one who is hanged is accursed" is part of the Torah. If a person curses Jesus, will any Christian tolerate it? But why are Paul's accusations against Jesus' innocence tolerated?

In the book of Timothy, Paul writes, blaming Eve for sin.

"And I do not allow a woman to teach or rule over a man, but to remain silent. Because first Adam was created and then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and fell into sin." ³³

Paul exhorts about alcohol.

"Don't just drink water in the future, but also use a little grape juice because of your stomach and often weakness". 34

According to Paul, all those who live according to the law of Shari'ah will be cursed. And no one could be righteous and virtuous before God due to the Shari'ah. It is clear here that when the Paul prohibited the practice of Shari'ah, then he is inviting his self-made Laws, and wants to rebel against the teachings of Prophet Jesus (PBUH).

Opposition to Circumcision by St. Paul

Circumcision was practiced by Abraham, and it was also practiced in

the Mousavi law. It is written in the Torah about this.

"And on the eighth day the boy shall be circumcised".35

Abraham was also commanded in the book of Genesis ³⁶ It is clear that Jesus was a descendant of Abraham. Christ was also circumcised. It is written in the Gospel of Luke.

"When eight days had passed and the time of his circumcision came, he was named Jesus." ³⁷

But Paul opposed the order, saying he was not in favour of circumcision.

"Behold, I Paul says unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. On the contrary, I testify again to every circumcised person that he is obliged to follow all the law. And in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love." 38

No fair-minded Christian denies that Jesus (pbuh) is not the founder of modern Christianity, but that St. Paul is the originator and founder of that religion. At first, he tried to abolish Christianity, but when he failed to destroy it by opposition, he decided to destroy it by becoming a friend and a supporter, because as much damage as could be done by becoming a friend, he did not become a rival or an enemy. St. Paul's success in this endeavor exceeded all expectations, and he annihilated Christianity and laid the foundations of Pauli religion, based on Egyptian and Greek philosophy, rather than the Torah and the articles of Jesus Christ. St. Paul wanted to make Christianity his subject and his Greek beliefs, because he was of Greek origin and he wanted this religion to be somehow dear to the Greeks and Romans. He also knew that the ancient enmity between the Greeks and the Jews would prevent the Greeks from following the religion of the Jews.

So, in his first letter to the glanders he writes:

"I became a Jew for the Jews in order to draw the Jews. For those who are subject to the law, I became subject to the law, so that I could draw the subjects of the law even though I myself was not subject to the law." Make myself lawless for the lawless people, so that I may draw the lawless people. I made everything for all men, so that somehow I could save some."³⁹

Considering these words, Paul's reality is immediately clear. He wisely combined Egyptian and Greek, Latin and Roman theology, with Jewish law, and obliterated all Judaism and introduced the Egyptian, Greek trinity and atonement into Christianity instead of Christian simplicity. As a result, Christianity became equally desirable for Jews and non-Jews alike.

Gradually he disagreed with the disciples of Jesus and laid the foundations for the doctrine of the Trinity, the solution, the atonement, and the crucifixion. However, none of these beliefs have been proven by Jesus.⁴⁰

So, Professor Hyam Maccoby writes:

"On the surface, Paul's Jesus doctrine appears to be a radical departure from Judaism. Paul was promoting a theology that had more in common with pagan mythology than with Judaism: that Jesus was a divine-human being who had descended from the sky and died for the sole purpose of rescuing mankind. The fact that this theory was new and upsetting to the Jews indicates that it has no place in Jewish scripture, at least not in any way that can be easily discerned." ⁴¹

Criticism on St. Paul by modern researchers

Opposition to Paul's views exists in Christianity itself. Following is derived from Professor Hyam Maccoby's Words.

"Their significance in the origins of Christianity is downplayed in a striking way. For example, we learn shortly after Jesus' death that Jesus' brother James is the leader of the Jerusalem Church. However, this James does not appear in the Gospels to have anything to do with Jesus' mission or tale. Instead, Joseph is mentioned briefly as one of Jesus' siblings who reportedly rejected Jesus during his lifetime and thought he was insane. It is unclear how a brother who had been opposed to Jesus during his lifetime became the revered leader of the Church immediately after Jesus' death, yet one would think that an explanation would be required. According to later Church stories. Of course, stories of James' miraculous conversion after Jesus' death and subsequent development as a saint filled the void. But, as will be argued later, the suppression of Jesus' brother James (and his other bros) from any significant role inside the Gospel story is part of disparagement of the early leaders who had been in close contact with Jesus and regarded the upstart Paul's Christological theories, flaunting his brand new visions in understanding of the Jesus whom he had never met in the flesh, with great suspicion and dismay". 42

Maya George has written about this.

"While Christians consider Jesus to be the creator of the faith, Paul's influence in shaping Christianity cannot be overlooked. Paul is considered as the great interpreter of Jesus' mission, explaining how Jesus' life and death fit into a cosmic scheme of deliverance ranging from Adam's creation to the end of time in a way that Jesus himself never did. The philosophies of Christianity are primarily derived from Paul's command or influence, as he rejected his Pharisaic Judaism belief." ⁴³

St. Paul interpreted Christianity in a way that even Jesus could not. Acknowledging this, Professor Hyam Maccoby writes of St. Paul.

"Two figures stand at the start of Christianity: Jesus and Paul. Christians regard Jesus as the founder of their religion because the events of his life form the foundation story of Christianity; however, Paul is recognised as the great interpreter of Jesus' mission because he explained how Jesus' life and death fit into a cosmic scheme of salvation that stretches from Adam's creation to the end of time in a way that Jesus himself never did." 44

The true believers of Jesus were not only believers in one God but also fasted. Paul continued his campaign despite opposition and gave Christians a new god in the form of Jesus. The doctrine of the Trinity, which existed among the pagans and Greeks in another form, was transformed by Paul into the form of the "Divine Trinity", meaning "God, the Son of God and the Spirit. It was a completely irrational belief. St. Paul never met Jesus.

Maya George has written about it like this:

"Jesus did not establish Christianity in the form we know it today. The majority of the New Testament ignores the actual Jesus, focusing instead on the Apostle Paul and a Greek convert named John through the church he established in Ephesus. Paul never met Jesus in person; instead, he claimed to have had a bizarre vision and went on to paganize Jesus' teachings (who advocated an enlightened form of Judaism belief) until he founded Pauline Christianity. With the exception of the disputed Gnostic Gospels, most of what Jesus taught is lost forever due to the lack of recognised writings from Jesus, the genuine Apostles, or anybody who truly knew Him in the flesh (other than probably James)." 45

Nevertheless, St. Paul determined Jesus' position and formulated new ideas. Professor Hyam Maccoby writes about this.

"What do you suppose Jesus would say of Paul? It's vital to remember that Jesus and Paul were never acquainted; they never met. Peter, James, and John, Jesus' closest disciples, have left no texts describing how Jesus came to them - and what they felt his mission was. Did they agree with Paul's ideas, which he promoted through his articulate and eloquent writings? Or did they think this newcomer, who was spewing sophisticated thoughts about Jesus' place in the scope of things, was absolutely wrong? Paul stated that his interpretations were not only his own invention, but that they would have come to him as a result of personal inspiration, and that he knew the author personally.". ⁴⁶

Herbert George Wells confesses himself.

"But it is equally a fact in history that St. Paul and his successors added to or completed or imposed upon or substituted another doctrine for...the plain...teachings of Jesus." 47

Even the compilation of the Gospels contains the influence of Paul's ideas, which Professor Heim acknowledges.

"It's important to remember that the New Testament, in its current form, is far more dominated by Paul than it looks at first glance. As we read it, we come across the Four Gospels, in which Jesus is the protagonist, but we don't meet Paul until the post-Jesus tale of Acts.... The dominating worldview and defining perspective of the Gospels, on the other hand, is that of Paul, for the simple reason that the Paulinist view of Jesus' presence on Earth triumphed in the Church as it developed through history. Rival interpretations, which had been conventional at one time and were contrary to Paul's highly personal beliefs, had now become heretical and had been pushed out of the final form". 48

Jesus himself stated in some places in the Gospel that he is a servant of God, a prophet, a student and a son of man. He never said that he is the son of God. Due to this distortion in the religion of Jesus, St. Paul was strongly opposed. Especially Barnabas, a disciple of Jesus, strongly opposed him.⁴⁹

But St. Paul opened the way to freedom from the shackles of Sharia . However, it continued to advance rapidly and the resistance was failed. St. Paul also wrote the belief that man is sinful by birth because his father Adam (peace be upon him) sinned. However, Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins of every human being. The first Sunday in Christianity was not a holy day because Christians are also Israelites and for the Israelites only the Sabbath day was considered sacred by the God Almighty.

In this regard, Christians should also respect the Sabbath, but since the Sun-worshiping nations considered Sunday to be the day of God, St. Paul also declared Sunday to be a holy day for Christians. In the same way, for the birth of Jesus (pbuh), he got the date of 5th December from the sunworshiping nations which was pre-determined as a holy day there.

Paul preached about himself instead of God, says Paul in the book of Corinthians.

"So, I beg you to be like me."50

Elsewhere Paul compares himself to Jesus.

"And you did not despise or hate my physical condition, which was the cause of your trial, and you accepted me as an angel of the Lord, but as Jesus Christ." 51

At one point Paul confessed that he was the architect of modern Christianity.

"In the measure of the grace given to me, I, as a wise master-builder, have put the base in position, and another goes on building on it. But let every man take care what he puts on it."52

St. Paul himself was called a liar on the basis of his views, which is why Paul had to explain himself.

"Verily, I say to you, I am not a liar, but I have been appointed to preach and to teach the Messenger and the polytheists the things of faith and truth." 53

The French scholar Boulanger explains.

"St. Paul, eager to exploit the Jewish nation's oracles to show Christ's mission, is forced to twist them and look for a mystical, allegorical, and figurative meaning in them. On the other hand, how can these prophesies written by Jews and addressed to Jews serve as proofs of St. Paul's theory, which was clearly developed with the intention of modifying, if not eliminating, the Jewish religion."⁵⁴

Whereas in the book of Matthew Jesus says:

"Be on the lookout for false Prophets who come to you dressed as sheep but are actually ruthless wolves. You will learn about them through their fruits. Do men gather figs from thistles or grapes from thorns" ⁵⁵

Conclusion

All of the above discussion leads to the conclusion, that Paul has changed the true form of Jesus' teachings and the beliefs of Christianity with the name of his ideas and revelations. Not only does this contradict with the infallibility of Jesus and the teachings he preaches, but also, the laws of the earlier Prophets have been rejected by St. Paul. This tragedy occurred only in Christianity, that instead of the true teachings of Jesus, a person who came later succeeded in converting the whole religion of the claimant of false Prophecy. Paul later became a religious figure in

Christianity. Even Jesus (PBUH) remained only for devotion while Paul became the representative of the practical religion. For this reason, Christians later called him "saint."

In the process, the personality of Jesus (PBUH) was suppressed and the personality of St. Paul emerged. Paul attributed many false statements to Jesus and sometimes based his revelation. However, his time had nothing to do with the original prophetic teachings. For the first three hundred years, devout Christians strongly opposed Pali beliefs, but as these devout Christians became more and more a minority, they seemed helpless in the face of Paul's beliefs. On several occasions, there were religious quarrels and fights between sincere Christians and Pali Christians.For the first two decades of the fourth century, there were people of pure religious faith, but eventually they had to surrender.It is also interesting to note that in the beginning there was no concept of a separate church, but sincere Christians used to go and worship in the synagogues of the Jews only. But St. Paul eventually envisioned a new place of worship (Church) and began calling himself a Christian by attributing himself to Jesus (PBUH).

This testament was a test from the glorious Prophet Jesus (PBUH) to identify the true and the false, but unfortunately it was ignored. Today, Christianity has turned into Paulism. They do not follow the command of Jesus Christ and follow the polytheistic and pagan teachings of Paul, even if it is against the teachings of the prophets and against the teachings of Jesus. The wise men of modern Christianity should think about where they stand and whom they are teaching.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

- 1. James Hastings, Ann Wilson Hastings, Edward Hastings, "The Expository Times", T. & T. Clark., 1895, 6/493
- 2. To see further details read, Pamela Eisenbaum's Book "Paul Was Not a Christian: The Original Message of a Misunderstood Apostle" HarperCollins, UK, 2009
- 3. It is also explained from a passages from the book of Acts. See "Acts of the Apostles" 7: 58-60, 1: 3-8
- 4. Patrick Tshibangu, "The Mystery of Dreams (The Vision of the Night): Discerning and Understanding Dreams through the Bible", Christian Faith Publishing, 2020, p. 210
- 5. Paula Gooder, "Only the Third Heaven?: 2 Corinthians 12.1-10 and Heavenly Ascent", T&T Clark, London, 2006, p. 127
- 6. "The Gospel of Matthew", 5: 17-19
- 7. Ibid, 10: 5-7
- 8. Ibid, 19: 16-17
- 9. "Encyclopedia of Britannica", 1973, 17/469
- 10. "Epistle to the Philippians", 3:5
- 11. "Acts of the Apostles" 22:28
- 12. E.P. Sanders, Article Title: "Saint Paul The Apostle", Encyclopedia Britannica. (Retrieved on May 6, 2017) https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Paulthe-Apostle

- 13. James Stalker, "The Life of St. Paul", Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, United States, 1983, p 12
- 14. Hammerton, Sir John Alexander, "Universal History of the World (Harmsworth's Universal History)", The educational Book Co, London, 1894. 4/2330
- 15. James Hastings, "A Dictionary of The Bible", The Minerva Group, Inc., London, 2004, 5/150
- 16. "Epistle to the Galatians", 2:11-12
- 17. "Acts of the Apostles", 26: 9-11
- 18. "Epistle to the Galatians" 1: 22-23
- 19. See for the details, "Acts of the Apostles", 26: 13-22
- 20. "Acts of the Apostles", 9: 1-9
- 21. Ibid 9: 17-18; "Epistle to Titus" 1:1
- 22. "Epistle to Titus" 1:1
- 23. "Epistle to the Galatians" 3: 11-12
- 24. Ibid, 3: 9-10
- 25. Ibid, 3: 16-17
- 26. "1 Timothy", 1: 9-10
- 27. "Epistle to the Galatians", 2: 21
- 28. "Book of Leviticus", 19:19
- 29. "Book of Psalms", 1: 119
- 30. "Book of Deuteronomy", 27:26; See for the further details: ibid 28: 14-20
- 31. "Epistle to the Galatians" 3: 13
- 32. "Book of Deuteronomy" 21:22-23
- 33. "Book of Timothy", 2:12-14
- 34. Ibid, 2:23
- 35. "Book of Leviticus", 12:3
- 36. See the details in the "Book of Genesis" 17: 9-14
- 37. "Gospel of Luke" 2: 21
- 38. "Epistle to the Galatians" 5: 2-11
- 39. "Corinthians" 9: 20-21
- 40. Maya George, "Faith & philosophy of Christianity", Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi, 2009, p. 99
- 41. Hyam Maccoby, "The Mythmaker: Paul and the Invention of Christianity", Barnes & Noble Publishing, New York City, 1998, p. 12
- 42. Ibid, p. 5
- 43. Maya George, "Faith & philosophy of Christianity", Gyan Publishing House, New Delhi, 2009, p 99
- 44. Maccoby, "The Mythmaker: Paul and the Invention of Christianity", p. 3
- 45. Maya George, "Faith & philosophy of Christianity", p. 99
- 46. Maccoby, "The Mythmaker: Paul and the Invention of Christianity", p. 3
- 47. Herbert George Wells, "The Outline of History: Being a Plain History of Life and Mankind", Macmillan Company, 1921, 1/952
- 48. Maccoby, "The Mythmaker: Paul and the Invention of Christianity", p. 4
- 49. "Gospel of Barnabas", Islamic Publications, Lahore, P. 2-9
- 50. "1 Corinthians". 4:16
- 51. "Galatians", 4:14
- 52. "1 Corinthians" 3:10
- 53. "1 Timothy", 2:7
- 54. Boulanger, "Critical Examination of the Life of St. Paul", (Translated from French by Peter Annet) R. Carlile, London, 1823, p. 2
- 55. "Matthew". 7: 15-16