## Did Paul and Jesus Preach Different Gospels?

## 1. Both proclaimed the arrival of the Kingdom of God

Jesus	Paul
Mark 1:15 — "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand."	Acts 20:25 — "I have gone [among you] preaching the kingdom of God"
Matthew 12:28 — the kingdom of God has come upon you.	Acts 14:22 — "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
Luke 17:21 — "For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."	Romans 14:17 — for the kingdom of God isrighteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

## 2. Both taught that God is a loving and merciful Father, whom we should imitate

Jesus	Paul
Luke 15:20-24 — And he arose and came to his	Romans 5:7-8 — For one will scarcely die for a righteous
father. But while he was still a long way off, his	person—though perhaps for a good person one would
father saw him and felt compassion, and ran	dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in
and embraced him and kissed him. And the son	that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against	
heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to	Romans 11:32 — For God has committed them all to
be called your son.' But the father said to his	disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.
servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it	
on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on	2 Corinthians 1:3 — Blessed <i>be</i> the God and Father of our

dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is Ephesians 2:4 — But God, being rich in mercy, because of found.' And they began to celebrate. the great love with which he loved us.

Ephesians 4:32 — And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies...

Ephesians 5:1 — Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

Matthew 7:11 — If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it,

and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was

Luke 6:35-36 — But love your enemies... and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Matthew 5:45 — But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

## 3. Both taught the same things about Christ's identity:

Paul
HE IS GOD
Phil.2:6-7 — who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, <i>and</i> coming in the likeness of men.  Romans 9:5 — Christ came, who isthe eternally blessed God.
HE IS SON OF GOD
Romans 1:3 — concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh.  Gal.2:20 —I live by the faith of the Son of God
HE IS THE SUPREME RULER
Acts 17:7 — and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."
HE IS CHRIST/MESSIAH
Acts 9:22 — But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ [Messiah].
HE IS LORD
Romans 10:9 — because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

## 4. Both taught that men must repent and believe to be saved

Jesus	Paul
Mark 1:15 — "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent, therefore, and believe the gospel."	Acts 20:21 — "[I have testified] to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

## 5. Both taught that a man can be justified prior to doing any righteous deeds

Jesus Paul

Luke 18:13-14 — But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 23:42-43 — And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

John 5:24 — Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 6:40 — For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:47 <sup>—</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me has eternal life.

Acts 13:39 — and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Roman 3:26 — It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 5:1 — Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 — For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus 3:5-7 —he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

# 6. Both taught that love for God and for one another is the supreme test of one's salvation

Jesus Paul

Matthew 22:37-40 — "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'... And 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

John 13:34-35 — A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 — If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Romans 13:10 — Love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 5:6 —neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

# 7. Both taught that good works (works of obedience to God) are essential to the Christian life and will be the basis of the final judgment.

Jesus Paul

Matthew 5:16 — In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 7:24-27 — "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ...And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."

Matthew 25:31-46 — "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right... 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ...Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those on his left...'I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me... Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Luke 6:46 — "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

Matthew 16:27 — For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Ephesians 2:10 — For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Romans 2:6-10 — He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

Romans 6:15-18 — What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Galatians 16-25 — But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ...Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Colossians 1:10 — that you may...[be] fruitful in every good work...

2 Thessalonians 1:8 — [Christ will come] in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:14 — who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

# 8. Both taught that ceremonial laws do not rank in the same class as ethical and moral standards in the Law

Jesus Paul

Matthew 12:7 — But if you had known what *this* means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

Matthew 23:23-24 — "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel.

Romans 2:25-27 — So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law.

Colossians 2:16-17 — So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

# 9. Both taught (for example) that Sabbath and festival observance and kosher diet were not absolute requirements

Jesus Paul

Matthew 12:2-8 — But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? ...For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

John 5:16 — For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him,[c] because He had done these things on the Sabbath. **17** But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

Mark 7:15-19 — Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

Rom.14:1-5 —One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him...One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

Colossians 2:16-17 — Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

1 Timothy 4:1-5 — [false teachers] require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

Galatians 4:10-11 — You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

## 10. Both taught that the Law of Moses was holy, just and good.

Iesus	Paul

Matthew 5:17-20 — "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 7:12 — So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

1 Timothy 1:8-10 — But we know that the law *is* good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine.

# 11. Both taught that Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial (e.g., the sacrificial) requirements of the Law

Jesus	Paul
Matthew 5:17 — "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.	1 Corinthians 5:7 — For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
Mark 10:45 — For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."	Hebrews 9:25-26 —But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
ransom for many!	Hebrews 10:11-12 —But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God

# 12. Both taught that a New Covenant has been established, and ratified by Christ's death.

Jesus	Paul
Luke 22:20 — And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.	2 Corinthian 3:6 — who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.  Hebrews 8:13 — In speaking of a new covenant, he makes
	the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

# 13. Both taught that following the teachings of Christ is the only true discipleship, and that those who do not agree with Christ's teachings are confused and dangerous.

Jesus	Paul
Matthew 7:24-27 — "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."  Matthew 28:19-20 — Go therefore and make disciples of all nationsteaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.  John 8:31 — So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.	1 Corinthians 11:1 — Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.  2 Corinthians10:5 — We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.  1 Timothy 6:3-4 — If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.

# 14. Both taught that there will be a general resurrection at Christ's second coming.

Jesus	Paul
John 5:28-29 — Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.  John 6:40 — For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."	Acts 24:15 — "[I have] a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust."  1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 — For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

### 15. Both had the same attitude toward women's roles

Jesus

## RESPECTED AND TRUSTED THEM WITH MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

John 4:28-29, 39 — The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"... And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified...

Mark 14:6, 8-9 — [Mary of Bethany] has done a good work for Me. ...She has done what she could...Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

Matthew 28:5, 7 — But the angel answered and said to the women... "go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

#### DID NOT CHOOSE THEM AS CHURCH LEADERS

Mark 3:13-19 — And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; and Judas Iscariot...

Luke 6:12-14 — Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter... [etc.]

Paul

## RESPECTED AND TRUSTED THEM WITH MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

Galatians 3:28 — There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Romans 16:1-2 — I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.

Romans 16:3 — Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus...

Philippians 2:2-3 — I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel...

Titus 2:3-4 — the older women likewise, [admonish] that they be...teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women...

### DID NOT CHOOSE THEM AS CHURCH LEADERS

1 Timothy 2:12 — And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man...

1 Timothy 3:2-5 — A bishop [Gr. "overseer"]then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, soberminded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?).

Titus 1:5-6 — For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children...

## 16. Both taught the same things concerning slavery

Jesus Paul

### THE SLAVE SHOULD HUMBLY OBEY

Matthew 24:45-46 – ""Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing."

Luke 17:7-10 — "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do."

Mark 10:44 — "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all."

### THE SLAVE SHOULD HUMBLY OBEY

Ephesians 6:5-7 — [Slaves], be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men...

Titus 2:9-10 — *Exhort* bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back, **10** not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

1 Timothy 6:1-2 — Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and *His* doctrine may not be blasphemed. And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather serve *them* because those who are benefited are believers and beloved.

Colossians 3:22 — Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord.

PETER also taught the same things: "Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

### THE IDEAL MASTER IS GENEROUS AND KIND

Matthew 24:46-47 — "Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."

Luke 12:37 — " [the master of the good servants] will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them."

## THE IDEAL MASTER IS GENEROUS AND KIND

Colossians 4:1 — Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Philemon 16 — [Receive back the runaway slave] no longer as a slave but more than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

PETER also wrote: "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous..."

Jesus	Paul