

# *The Crux of the Matter*

## **Paul's Radical Revelation**



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**P**aul's evangel challenges the way we see things. The revelation given to him by our Lord Jesus Christ challenges our false worldview: the way we see God, Christ, ourselves, others, the world around us – *everything!* It brings us to a crux; to a decisive point. Whose version of these will we believe? More pointedly, *who* will we believe?

### **GOD**

Will we continue to believe the lies about God? Will we continue to believe in a “god” who is something less than God? A god who is not the Sovereign of his creation? A god who cannot control his own universe? A god who cannot accomplish his own purpose? A god who purports to be all-wise, all-knowing and all-powerful, but who in reality cannot coordinate these absolute and boundless attributes to accomplish the task of his will? A god that is frustrated, filled with disgust, loathing, repulsion, hatred, bitterness and hostility?

### **CHRIST**

Will we continue to believe the lies about the Son of God? Will we continue to believe in a Christ who must attempt to appease the anger of this “god,” but who can manage to do so for only a very few? A Christ who is more loving than his god? A Christ who is a failure at taking away the sin of the world? A Christ who is unsuccessful at his role of saving the world?

### **OURSELVES**

Will we continue to believe the lies about ourselves? Will we continue our attempts to discover our true selves apart from the truth?

Paul's revelation radically challenges our true identity, the truth of who we really are. We need to embrace it over all of the lies concerning us.

Paul's letters catalog the Divine Record of who and what we are – the real us. His epistles are an encyclopedia of the truth about us.

We are not self-created, self-made or self-determined. We are exactly what we are because we were so *created*. Being God's *creature*, He has made us precisely who we are.

Moreover, in a larger context, He is continually *making* us who we are. His achievement in us is an *ongoing* work that will find its final result only when He is completely done with His masterpiece.

Understanding and believing these glorious truths will allow us the freedom to be at rest about ourselves. Will we embrace this revelation given to Paul? Or, will we allow the lies to bully us out of our divinely designed identity?

## OTHERS

Will we continue to believe the lies about others? Paul also challenges our religiously-tainted view concerning *everyone* around us.

Ultimately, the only thing that makes us different from everyone else is *timing*. God's steady work in His creation has always involved the *time* element: as in the resurrection, in every aspect of His work in all mankind – whether it is birth, realization of the truth, glorification, etc. – it is “**every man in his own order**” (I Corinthians 15:23).

We are simply farther along in Father's handiwork than the rest of His creation. God is doing an *early* work in us. It is only the *timing* of His *grace* that makes the difference.

## A CROSSROADS

Paul's good news brings us to the crossroads of all of these views. Will we continue to believe the lies that have us groping in our own dark world? Or, will we live in the light of God's truth?

Paul's evangel is a revelation of a real God, a real Christ, a real world. It's a revelation that challenges every aspect of our thinking *to its core*.

Faith is the divinely induced discovery of the true God and His real world. It's a discovery that challenges every aspect of our thinking.

The fight of faith becomes our daily walk: *Who will we believe?* Will we believe ourselves? Will we believe our education and training? Will we believe Christendom? Will we believe our denomination or church? Will we believe our feelings? Will we believe our human reasoning? Or, will we believe God's revelation through Paul?

God calls us to a transformed mind: a radical repentance – a drastic change in the way we see God,

Christ, ourselves, others and the world around us, as well as God's past, present, future and ultimate plan. Refuse to live in the darkness of lies; embrace the light of divine revelation given to Paul.

*If you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me on your account, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery ... That you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men ... Of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power ... that I should proclaim ... the unsearchable riches of Christ; and make all men see what is the dispensation of the mystery, concealed from the ages in God ... To the intent that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the called-out-ones the manifold wisdom of God, according to the purpose of the ages which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord: in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by His faith (Ephesians 3:2-12).*

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