

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE BIRTH OF CHRISTIANITY

RLJ-1300

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PART 4: NO MORE COMPROMISE

The believers in Christ in the Book of Acts were imperfect humans just like everyone else. Barnabas and Paul were apostles, who had been baptized in the Holy Spirit and used by God in signs and miracles, but they had hot tempers and still made mistakes.

They returned from the convention in Jerusalem and were honored at the church in Antioch but they had an argument whether Barnabas' nephew (Mark) should accompany them on a new mission trip. **Colossians 4:10**

The result was that the friendship God had forged between Barnabas and Paul was destroyed and they parted ways. **Acts 15:35-41**

This argument was not from the Holy Spirit but the work of Satan since then he has continued to infiltrate the church of Jesus Christ and cause division and church splits.

PAUL MOVED IN THE FLESH

Paul chose Silas as a new partner and came to the cities of Derbe and Lystra where he found an outstanding young man named Timothy, who was half Jewish. Paul wanted him to come along but he was weary of the Jewish leadership in the area because everybody knew that Timothy's father was a Greek and that he had not been circumcised.

Even though Paul preached strongly that circumcision was no longer valid, and the convention in Jerusalem had also agreed, he still decided to circumcise Timothy in order to please the unsaved Jewish leadership.
Acts 16:1-3

Some eight years later, Paul would tell the church in Galatia that he used to please men, but no longer did so. **Galatians 1:10**

Paul went through a growth period just like all other Christians, and in the beginning of his ministry he tried to please all men, hoping to win them for Christ. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 10:33**

In time he found that trying to please everyone did not work at all. **Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31**

It was in his letter to the Galatians, written between 52-57 A.D., Paul said there was no other Gospel than faith in Jesus Christ and His redemptive work on Calvary. **Galatians 1:1-9; 3:1-14**



PRESSURE IS PUT ON THE APOSTLE PAUL

In 58 A.D. Paul came for the last time to Jerusalem. Most of the original apostles had by now spread out into different places in the Roman Empire and Peter was in Babylon. **1 Peter 5:13**

James, the half brother of Jesus was in charge in Jerusalem, and by this time he had reverted back to Judaism and circumcision. Paul caved under enormous pressure from James and the elders in Jerusalem to go back in the old ways. **Acts 21:17-25**

We aren't told why Paul compromised and agreed to the temple work but we are given an account of what happened. **verse 26**

The plan to appease the Jews blew up in his face. **verses 27-36**

Paul tried in vain to make his case to the Jews, but it was a lost cause. **Acts 22:1-3, 22-23**

The result of Paul's appeasement was two years spent in a Roman prison in Caesarea, a sea voyage to Rome as a prisoner, a violent ship wreck and more time in prison in Rome before he was set free.

Scholars have argued that the letter to the Hebrews was not written by Paul but I believe that he was the author. This letter was written around 67 A.D., three years before the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed.

Sometimes during the years 63-67 Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy. He was arrested in Rome, and during his last imprisonment wrote the second letter to Timothy, which is dated to have been written between 67-68 A.D., when Paul was beheaded.

THE DOCTRINE OF FAITH IS ESTABLISHED

When Paul wrote the letter to the Hebrews, it is clear there was no more confusion. He understood that the First Covenant had been replaced with a Second Covenant through Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 8:1-13**

In his final instruction to Timothy, Paul admonished him to stand firm on the scriptures with which he was raised. That would be the Old Testament, excluding the Sacrificial Law fulfilled by Jesus. **2 Timothy 3:14-17; 4:1-8**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?