

In Defense of Paul the Apostle: An Analysis of Lukewarm Christianity

Witnesses 1 and 2

A few months ago, I found a channel on Bitchute that I really liked, and I was invited to the discord. The man appeared Christian on the surface, and in the chat, I learned that he didn't agree with Paul's teachings. In other words, he didn't agree with 14 books of the Bible. I was shocked but curious. I didn't dismiss it at first. I investigated it, and it was easy to debunk nearly everything he said (and I will debunk major arguments later in this post).

Jesus said a [house divided cannot stand](#). This is true for modern Christianity.

If the Bible is not 100% true in our eyes as Christians, we have NO foundation. If we start to cherry-pick the Bible, we must then decide whose cherry picking is right. The anti-Pauline guy on Bitchute? The pro-LGBT Christian group? The people who deny the Old Testament? You see what happens here. That is why God gave us the Bible. It is our life manual - it is a way to figure out reality and what is true or not.

[2 Timothy 3:16 – 17](#)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This post is a warning to Christians to not rely on the teachings of men (especially on Bitchute, YouTube, and social media) but to always go back to the Bible. Is the Bible Trustworthy? 100%. Witness 1 has taken the time to prove this to you in the following chapters within *The More Rational Worldview*:

Bible Codes Contain Proof of Supernatural Authorship
Fulfilled Prophecy
The History and Accuracy of the New Testament
Historical Arguments for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
Divine Inspiration

So before you comment with any arguments, read those. Then argue with me. I don't mind a good debate, but I find people refuse to read research that counters with what they already think or feel. This is dangerous and leads to lukewarm Christianity.

NO LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS IN HEAVEN. see Rev. 3:16

Lukewarm Christianity - "I'm a Christian but..."

While there are many sins, very few talk about these two:

- Self-righteousness
- Lukewarmness

These are two very dangerous opposite types of Christianity that are sending many to hell. On the self-righteous side, people simply feel they are "holier than thou", and will not repent for their sins. However, [Jesus says there is not one good but God alone. None of us are good.](#)

On the other dangerous side of the spectrum is [Lukewarm Christianity](#).

Let me just lay this out for you like this. I'm going to call this part, which we've discussed in greater detail in *The New Pharisees*, "I'm a Christian but..."

"I'm a Christian but..."

- 1) I don't like that anti-LGBT stuff in the Bible.
- 2) I don't like when God gets angry or mad. I don't like when God has wrath.
- 3) I don't trust that Paul guy. I'm in the anti-Pauline movement.
- 4) I don't really like the Old Testament.
- 5) I only follow Jesus's teachings - I ignore the rest.
- 6) I'm too lazy to read the Bible.
- 7) It seems old-fashioned. I believe all religions have some good.
- 8) I think Jesus was just a good guy we should try to follow.
- 9) I think everyone is going to Heaven.
- 10) I don't like all the suffering stuff. Can't we all just be happy?

This is the state of modern Christianity. Everyone is a Christian...BUT. Everyone has a bone to pick with God, and they think they know better than him. Don't be a "Christian... BUT".

This is the sin of pride. The worst sin of them all.

The Sin of Pride

[Satan fell due to his pride](#), and that is what is happening to many Christians. Pride is one of the worst sins because a prideful heart cannot repent.

So many people think they know better than God, whether they claim to be Christian or not. I asked God in prayer why so many try to question the validity of the Bible, and he says because [they think they are wise, but they are actually fools](#).

Do not fall into this prideful category of sin. Trust God and the Bible with all your heart and soul. Read the writings above to ensure that you understand why the Bible is supernaturally authored and pray for understanding. While they may try to "edit" the Bible with new age translations, you can always go back to the original Greek and Hebrew texts using a concordance for reliability and accuracy.

In Defense of Paul the Apostle

I believe that the Rise of the anti-Pauline movement is a result of pride. So, I took some of the common arguments against Paul and addressed them here, for anyone searching.

Peter's Statements on Paul

Consider the following:

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our **dear brother Paul** also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. **His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.**

2 Peter 3: 14 - 16

So, first things first. Notice that Peter says that people who distort or ignore Paul's scriptures are ignorant and even unstable! Further, he says the epistles are hard to understand, and that is because they are. So, my question here is, do you not believe Peter either? Is Peter not credible in his word?

Most agree that Peter is a trustworthy and true disciple of Jesus. He was entrusted and endowed with authority over the other disciples by Jesus himself, who called him [the rock on which the church was founded](#). [Simon, Peter, Cephas](#), is widely regarded as the first pope for this reason, so to question his authority to approve the Pauline epistles as canonical does indeed lead to destruction.

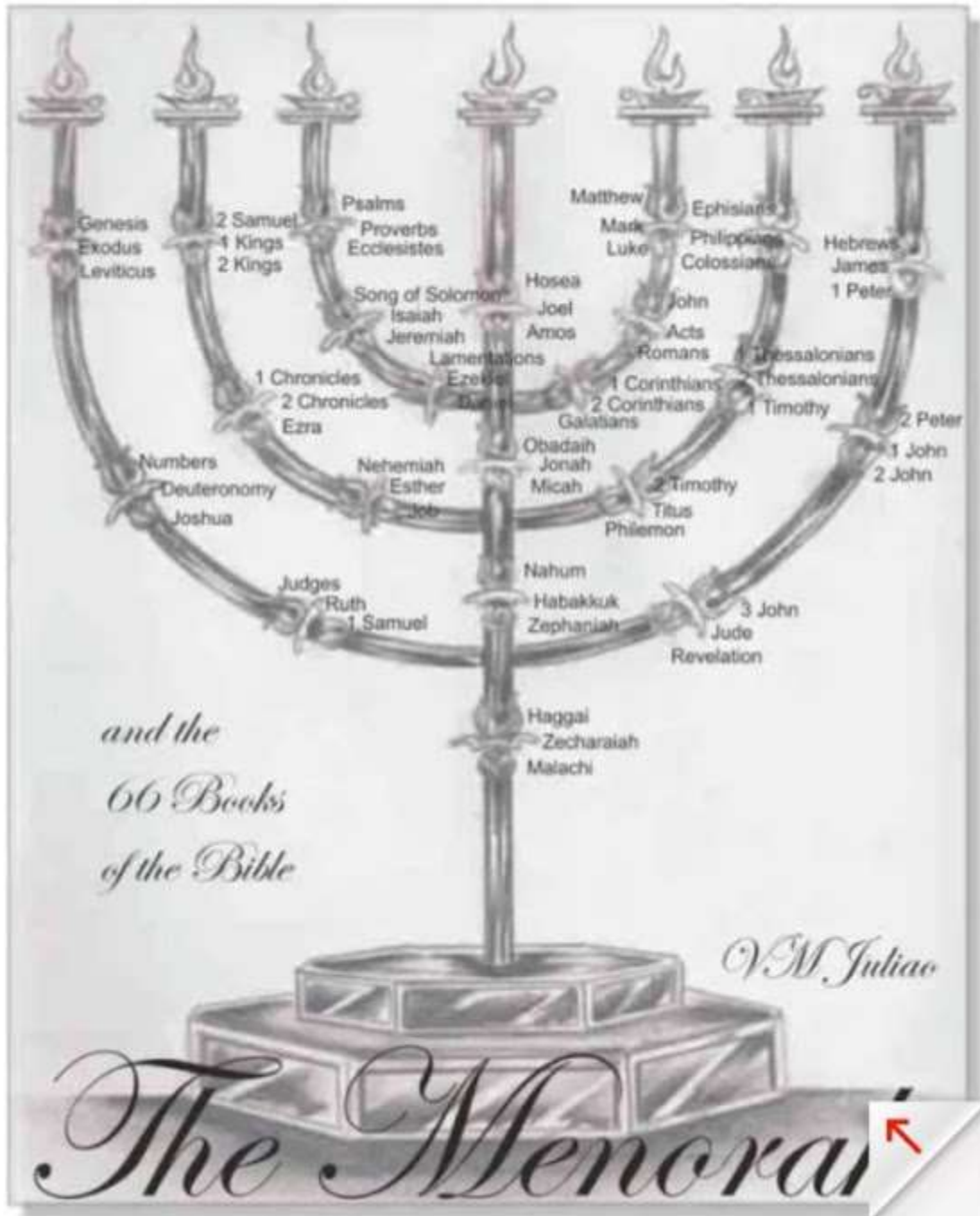
The anti-Pauline modality of thought is a doctrine of demons. It could be considered serious blasphemy and heresy, as Paul is the only person in the Bible that Jesus appeared to post-Ascension, and he personally commissioned Paul to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles. If you deny Paul, you deny Jesus and Peter as well, and that's just not a good look.

At the end of the day- [you have to listen to Peter; otherwise, you really aren't following Jesus](#).

If you deny Paul, you deny Peter. If you deny Peter, you deny Jesus – and that's not a good look. Literally, if Peter spoke to the anti-Pauline movement today, he would say they were not stable-minded and were trying to distort the scriptures.

Prophetic Significance of 66 Books

In addition, the number 66, which is the number of books in the Bible, has prophetic importance. The number 66 can be found in both the Menorah and the Tabernacle, suggesting that this number is of great importance to God, and thus, no coincidence that there are 66 books accepted as the Bible:



There are actually 66 "units" or "stations" on the Menorah, which is the rightful symbol of Israel. This corresponds with there being 66 books in the Bible, as God always knows exactly what He's doing, and there is never a number out of place.

Next, let's look at the Tabernacle showbread, ceremonial bread within the first version of the temple, the Tabernacle, which foreshadowed the Last Supper and subsequent ritual of communion.

[Leviticus 24: 6](#) reads:

And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD.

Two rows of 6. **66**. A number of perfection and completion, apparently, to God. This is just one of many arguments that demonstrate the absolute absurdity of attempting to discredit the Pauline Epistles while maintaining credibility as a Christian. It's impossible to straddle the fence with God, he declares many times that if you are not with him, you are against him. It is foolishness and hubris to assert that the Pauline Epistles should be discarded. Paul was uniquely qualified and commissioned in a way that no one else can claim, and it is abundantly clear that the specific number of books in the Bible is that way for a reason.

Paul's Dramatic Transformation

Paul lived during the time of Christ, and he really believed that he had the experience on the road to Damascus that he did. For the skeptics, do you really think Paul would have shown such a 180 degree turn on his point of view if a supernatural intervention by Jesus did not happen? Remember, he was going to Damascus with papers allowing him to arrest and imprison the followers of Jesus.

Recall [Acts 9](#):

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.

Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Now, your Bible skeptics have a very hard time with this one. That's because, from the historian's perspective, Paul's story doesn't make sense without a supernaturally resurrected and ascended Christ.

Nowhere else in history have we seen such a dramatic complete change from literally wanting to go murder people for following Jesus, to the Paul the Apostle that we know. Well, if you're a materialist, you're going to have a tough time here. Let me guess - he got dehydrated, suffered from heatstroke, and had a hallucination of Jesus speaking to him.

Unfortunately for the atheist, current psychological research indicates that if Paul was suffering from hallucinations, schizophrenia, or any other type of mental illness, he would not have done so through this radical new lens of Christianity. Rather, he would have stayed within his well-established Orthodox Jewish beliefs, namely, that Jesus Christ was NOT the Messiah. What we find is quite the opposite.

It truly strains credibility to think that Paul would have given up his entire life as a "Pharisee descended from Pharisees" without a legitimate reason to, such as an ascended Christ both appearing to, and blinding, Paul.

How to Test the Spirits

As you most likely know, the Bible gives us a clear method for testing any spirits or angels that visit us, in case they are Satan or a demon in disguise. The method is thus:

By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. (1 John 4:1-4)

1. Ask the spirit who his Lord and Master is. The spirit better say his Lord and Master is Jesus Christ. If the spirit cannot confess that Jesus Christ is his Lord and Master – then he is not an angel from God.
2. I would then tell her to ask the spirit to confess to her that Jesus Christ has come to our earth in the flesh. If this spirit cannot make this specific confession to her – then this spirit is definitely not from God!

<https://www.bible-knowledge.com/testing-the-spirits>

If we are going by this Biblical standard, then Paul qualifies as a true Apostle. He proudly, openly, and many times proclaims that Jesus is Lord, and that he lived and died in the flesh. In fact, he even died for this belief. If he were a false Apostle, he would not do these things.

Consistency of the Bible/Council of Nicaea

Let's think about this logically. If the council of Nicaea was inaccurate, or chose poorly, there would be many different versions of the Bible floating around. However, this is not what we find. There is only one Bible, and it's clearly the way God intended it to be. Assuming God is real and has the attributes stated in the Bible, it would be impossible to "trick" him into revealing a false Bible.

Essentially the argument is thus:

If you were right, and the Pauline epistles were a forgery or some kind of trick, it would have undoubtedly caused a large and historically noticeable schism within the early church. This is not what we find. Paul, and the text of the Bible as we know it, was unquestionably accepted by every church member, elder, and council.

Paul's Qualifications

The 14 letters of the Apostle Paul share the Gospel of Jesus that is in character with 1) what we know about Jesus from the 4 Gospel writers and 2) in line with what we know and understand of the Old Testament. Paul warns his listeners to not accept doctrine that does not agree with the words of Jesus Christ. ([1 Timothy 6:3-4](#)) That is possibly the strongest argument I can make. As a Pharisee, Saul had been a diligent student of the Law. He could read, write and probably speak at least four languages, including Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic and Latin. As one called of God (Acts 9) Paul was uniquely qualified to proclaim the Gospel message to Jews and to Gentiles. Look at his comparison of Adam and Jesus as types of first men ([Romans 5](#)) and the use of Sarah and Hagar as an allegory for two covenants ([Galatians 4](#)).

<https://themasterstable.wordpress.com/2014/07/09/a-defense-of-the-apostle-paul/>

Without Paul, Christianity could never have spread to the Gentiles as effectively as it did. Paul was personally chosen by God for this task, due to his unique life and qualifications. In addition, he mentions many times how much he suffered for Christ, and how he gave up his life for Jesus. To call Paul a false prophet or a deceiver is to carry Satan's water and do his dirty work for free, and there's just no way around that.

Alleged Contradictions Between Paul and Jesus

The anti-Pauline movement has accused Paul of contradicting Jesus. Here are some of the verses they have cited to us.

Alleged Contradiction #1:

Paul says: "I appeal to you for my child, Ones'imus, **whose father I have become** in my imprisonment."

Jesus says: And **call no man your father on earth**, for you have one Father, who is in heaven"

I went back to the [concordance](#) for this one, which you should start doing. Because interestingly, Paul doesn't call himself a father.

4:15 For [1063](#) though [1437](#) ye have [2192](#) [5725](#) ten thousand [3463](#) instructors [3807](#) in [1722](#) Christ [5547](#), yet [235](#) [have ye] not [3756](#) many [4183](#) fathers [3962](#): for [1063](#) in [1722](#) Christ [5547](#) Jesus [2424](#) I [1473](#) have begotten [1080](#) [5656](#) you [5209](#) through [1223](#) the gospel [2098](#).

He says, "in Christ Jesus I have begotten you" - which is not the same as father.

Here are all the meanings of begotten:

1) of men who fathered children

1a) to be born

1b) to be begotten

1b1) of women giving birth to children

2) metaph.

2a) to engender, cause to arise, excite

2b) in a Jewish sense, of one who brings others over to his way of life, to convert someone

2c) of God making Christ his son

2d) of God making men his sons through faith in Christ's work

Notice here the closest definition to father is number one, but really, the others are just about being born in Christ. He does not actually use the word father here, clearly indicating that he had a different connotation. He was talking about being born again in Christ through his preaching. Again, he doesn't call himself a father.

Further, it is important to note that Jesus was talking about a spiritual father here. Notice the Catholics use the term father in a spiritual way, violating Jesus's words. Jesus also warns his followers not to call themselves [instructors or teachers](#). Does that mean that teachers cannot call themselves teacher? NO. He is talking about this in a spiritual light. Context is everything!

Alleged Contradiction #2:

Paul says: "For this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be **Lord both of the dead and of the living.**" Romans 14:1 Jesus s

Jesus says: "Now he is **not God of the dead, but of the living.**" Luke 20:38

Jesus IS Lord of both the (spiritually) dead and alive, as in even those condemned to hell will still be forced to kneel and confess that Jesus is Lord, and he is metaphysically Lord over them, even in hell. There is no contradiction because Paul is referring to JESUS, and Jesus is referring to GOD. [God is not the author of confusion](#), and all of these "contradictions" merely reveal the ignorance and elementary understanding of those pointing them out.

Alleged Contradiction #3:

Paul says: "For we hold that a man is **justified by faith** apart from works of law" Romans 3:22

Jesus says "**By your words you will be justified**, and by your words you will be condemned." Mathew 12:37

To express faith in Jesus, you must say, "I believe." You can't just think about it. You must proclaim it. Therefore, faith and words are, in a sense, equitable. If you have true faith, then your words will show it. In the beginning was the "Word". "And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. "

Words and faith here are NOT a contradiction, but instead, can be used interchangeably. When you find Jesus, what do you have to do to prove it? You have to publicly confess your faith with your words.

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. (Romans 10:9) Again, "whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." (1 John 4:15)

Notice that the act of using words (confessing) is equated to faith. Faith is using your words to declare your belief.

Honestly, these are just bad arguments. Some of them sound convincing at first, then crumble at the slightest critique. Some of them are so weak it's laughable, like the "father" one, and the one about being Lord of the living and dead. Essentially, to find these "contradictions", what you must do is take verses out of context, usually from different translations, and put them side by side. Allow me to be perfectly clear:

There are NO contradictions between Jesus and Paul. Anti-Pauline proponents cannot present even one *real* contradiction.

They can't show anything real here. Even if there were, which there isn't, there is another argument that weakens this contradiction argument regarding the Gospels. Have you ever sat down and read them laterally, that is, side-by-side? You'll find that there are actually numerous contradictions in the Gospels, where they tell a slightly different story.

People like Bart Erhman use this to discredit the Bible, but it's not the case. It is four eyewitness accounts of the same event, which feature slight differences in recall. It's exactly what you would expect from four people telling the same story they remember.

What this shows is that even if there were contradictions in the text, which there isn't, it wouldn't actually discredit any of the Bible or the Epistles. It's a complicated book that takes lifetimes to understand, but if you really think about it - the Bible is perfect.

While there may be other contradictions to address, the point is that they are, without exception, childishly easy to dispute within minutes if one just goes back to the context of the text and examines them. [Here is a great, quick video exposing the anti-Pauline movement.](#)

Thus, the questions for any Pauline critics to answer are as follows:

1. "All Scripture is God-breathed" - True or False?
2. Do you reject Peter?
3. If so, don't you also reject Jesus?
4. Are you not the ignorant and unstable mind mentioned here? If you don't think so, then why not?
5. How do you justify discrediting Paul when he passes every test given to us to discern truth, such as proclaiming that Jesus is Lord of all?
6. Why do we not see two different versions of the Bible, or even any record of a schism or debate regarding this?
7. How can you explain the sudden and dramatic transformation of Paul's beliefs, life, and character without a legitimate ascended Christ appearing to him and commissioning him?
8. How do you rationalize changing the number of books in the Bible from a prophetically significant number to a random and arbitrary number with no common agreement?
9. Where is the dividing line for false or true epistles? Some academics assert that 7/14 are forgeries, while others all 14. How is this not simply an arbitrary decision based on personal opinions?
10. By what authority do you claim the right to edit the Bible as you see fit?
11. Why do you not do this with any other texts? If you apply the same textual criticism to other ancient texts, then the author of almost anything becomes unclear. It's simply not the correct way to analyze texts from antiquity.

Conclusions

We've seen this before, if you've been paying attention. It's in Section II of *The More Rational Worldview* about fulfilled prophecy, regarding Isaiah. The Prophet Isaiah supernaturally predicted the name of King Cyrus and that he would be the one to release Israel from their bondage, approximately 100 years before the events actually happened.

To get around this clear proof of supernatural authorship, academics and skeptics had to conjure up a theory, a "deutero-Isaiah". They assert, with no evidence, that there must be multiple authors, because no one could have possibly predicted that. However, they are not arguing in good faith using the same rigorous methodological guidelines that are regularly applied in criticism and study of ancient texts.

Rather, they came up with their conclusion first, that there must have been multiple authors of Isaiah, and work backwards from that. This is bad faith intellectual posturing which, if applied to any other text from antiquity, would seem an absolutely absurd assertion.

Why don't people ever do this stuff with Plato, Aristotle, or the Odyssey, etc.? It's because they hate the Bible - because it's the truest mirror humanity will ever have. Within the Bible are promises that every dark secret will be exposed, and every evil deed will be recompensed. Where will you stand on the day of judgment - to the right, or to the left?

-Witness 1

Do not be a lukewarm Christian. Remember this verse:

Matthew 7: 22 - Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'

[Denying or adding to any part of the Bible is a very dangerous game.](#)

In the end times, we must stand together as Christians, and not divide our fellowship. When things really start to get hard against Christians, the first thing they will try to attack is the Bible. If we do not defend the Bible, then we are going against Jesus.

So, do not fall for the [doctrines of demons](#). [Put on the full armor of God](#). And, finally,

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3: 5-6

- Witness 2