

# *Paul's Teaching on Hell*

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*"God is love"* (I John 4:8, 16).

**P**aul has been given a very special place in our age. He has been chosen by God as the Apostle to the Gentiles – to the Nations. He is our divinely appointed Apostle.

*"For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office"* (Romans 11:13).

God revealed to him alone the distinct message for our day:

- **The Gospel of the Grace of God**

*"... The ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify **the Gospel of the Grace of God**"* (Acts 20:24).

This gospel was committed to Paul's trust.

*"According to the glorious **gospel** of the blessed God, **which was committed to my trust**"* (I Timothy 1:11).

Paul calls this distinct gospel given to him by God for us, "my gospel."

*"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to **my gospel**"* (Romans 2:16).

*"Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to **my gospel** ..."* (Romans 16:25).

*"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but **by the revelation of Jesus Christ**"* (Galatians 1:11-12).

- **The Dispensation of the Grace of God**

“... **The Dispensation of the Grace of God** which is given me to you-ward” (Ephesians 3:2).

“... I am made a minister, according to **the Dispensation of God** which is given to me for you ...” (Colossians 1:25).

- **The Revelation of the Mystery**

“Now to Him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the Revelation of the Mystery**, which was kept secret since the world began” (Romans 16:25).

“... By revelation He made known unto me **the Mystery** ...” (Ephesians 3:2-3).

God gave these revelations to Paul for us – members of the Church, the Body of Christ:

“... *The Church, Which is His Body*” (Ephesians 1:22-23).

“... *The Body, the Church* ...” (Colossians 1:18).

Paul is the divinely authorized spokesman of God for this age.

“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let Him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. (I Corinthians 14:37).

As C.I. Scofield has stated, “In his [Paul’s] writings **alone** we find the **doctrine**, position, walk, and destiny of the church.” (Scofield Reference Bible, Ephesians 3:6, emphasis ours).

These words of Scofield convey the clear teaching of Paul:

“Whereunto He called you by **our gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether **by word, or our epistle**” (II Thessalonians 2:14-15).

“Hold fast the **form of sound words**, which thou hast **heard of me**, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 1:13).

“And the things that thou hast **heard of me** among many witnesses, **the same** commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (II Timothy 2:2).

“Holding fast the **faithful word** as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” (Titus 1:9).

Because Paul is God's spokesman for us today, we are to study his teaching faithfully when considering the application of any doctrine.

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).*

The subject of Hell is no exception. What follows here in this chapter is a *complete* listing of every occurrence of Paul's usage of the word *hell* as recorded in the King James Version of the Bible. We shall list all of his teachings regarding hell as recorded by Luke in the *Book of Acts*, as well as himself in all of his epistles (*Romans* through *Philemon*) as seen in the following:

## **Paul's Usage of the Word *Hell***

**in the**

**Book of Acts**

## **Paul's Usage of the Word *Hell***

**in**

### **His Epistles**

#### **Are you surprised to see empty columns?**

Did you ever stop to consider that Paul, our Apostle, *never once* used the word “hell?”

He didn't use the word *hell* in any recorded messages from the Book of Acts. He didn't use the word *hell* in any of his epistles. Not once! None! Zero! How could this possibly be?

How could Paul have conducted a teaching ministry that brought glory to God, and yet never have even once used the word *hell*? Isn't the traditional, orthodox doctrine of *hell* at the very foundation of the religious system's creeds?

How could Paul have been so negligent? How could he have gone through his entire ministry forgetting to use such a crucial word? What's up with that?

Or, is it possible that Paul understood something we don't? Could it be we have been deeply buried under religious tradition?

Consider for a moment this declaration of Paul himself, found in the Book of Acts:

*"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you **all** the counsel of God" (Acts 20:26, 27).*

The plain and simple fact is that Paul was NOT negligent in his teaching ministry. Here is a passage that makes this clear. Paul said that he was *"pure from the blood of all men,"* because he had declared **"all the counsel of God"** – a counsel which obviously DID NOT include *hell* at all.

Do we find ourselves perplexed that Paul, the Apostle, *never* used the word *hell* and yet was able to declare *"all the counsel of God?"* Are we amazed that he could have been *"pure from the blood of all men"* without even *once* using the word *hell*? Could our bewilderment here be because we have been steeped in the traditions of men, and not in the traditions of Paul?

*"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle" (II Thessalonians 2:15).*

We are to hold Paul's traditions, *"whether by **word**, or **our epistle**."* Holding to Paul's very words and epistles will remove *hell* from our teaching.

*"Hold fast the **form of sound words**, which thou hast **heard of me**, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 1:13).*

Again, *"holding fast the form of sound words"* that we have heard from Paul will remove *hell* from our doctrine. We must be like those from Berea and search the Scriptures for ourselves (Acts 17:11). We need to test diligently, or prove the things that we believe against the Scriptures.

*"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21).*

We need to see for ourselves if religious *hell* was a part of the vocabulary divinely given to Paul. We must consult an exhaustive concordance if need be. We must not settle for the party line, or a secondhand faith.

*"... Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" (Romans 14:5).*

Isn't Paul presented as our present pattern (I Timothy 1:15-16)?

Doesn't Paul tell us to follow him (I Corinthians 4:15-17; 11:1; Philippians 3:17)?

Didn't Paul tell us to:

*“Hold fast the **form of sound words**, which thou hast **heard of me**, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” ( II Timothy 1:13)?*

Did we hear *hell* from Paul? Is it a Pauline form of *sound words*? Have we been duped into accepting a religious tradition that is contrary to the sound scriptural teachings of our Apostle?

Wouldn't we be Pauline if we, like Paul, also excluded *hell* from our teaching? Or, more pointedly, could we possibly be truly Pauline in our teaching, if we continue the use of a theological system that includes the traditional *hell*?

*“But speak thou the things which become **sound doctrine**” (Titus 2:1).*

The religious system's teaching concerning hell is *not* Pauline, and is *not* sound doctrine. Let's not be afraid of where truth leads us. Truth truly liberates us from suppressive religious bondage. Well did our Savior say,

*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).*

Why not enjoy the true freedom of believing the Scriptures over traditional teaching? Why not follow Paul in a *pure* Grace Gospel that has no place for, nor need of a religious *hell*?

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