CAN PAUL BE TRUSTED?

So, before we move onto what Paul wrote on the subject, let's look into the life and calling of Paul and his qualifications as it were. Then we will dive into the supposed contradiction and controversy.

■ Paul Was Called By Jesus Himself.

ACTS 9:3-7 "And in the going, he came nigh to Damascus, and suddenly there shone round about him a light from the heaven, (4) and having fallen upon the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why me dost thou persecute?' (5) And he said, 'Who art thou, Lord?' and the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom thou dost persecute; hard for thee at the pricks to kick;' (6) trembling also, and astonished, he said, 'Lord, what dost thou wish me to do?' and the Lord said unto him, 'Arise, and enter into the city, and it shall be told thee what it behoveth thee to do.' (7) And the men who are journeying with him stood speechless, hearing indeed the voice but seeing no one,"

■ Paul Was Called & Taught By Jesus.

GALATIANS 1:1 "Paul, an apostle (not from men, nor through man, but through Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead),"

<u>GALATIANS</u> 1:11-12 "But I make known to you, brothers, concerning the Good News which was preached by me, that it is not according to man. (12) For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ."

GALATIANS 1:15-19 "and when God was well pleased—having separated me from the womb of my mother, and having called me through His grace— (16) to reveal His Son in me, that I might proclaim him good news among the nations, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood, (17) nor did I go up to Jerusalem unto those who were apostles before me, but I went away to Arabia, and again returned to Damascus, (18) then, after three years I went up to Jerusalem to enquire about Peter, and remained with him fifteen days, (19) and other of the apostles I did not see, except James, the brother of the Lord."

■ Please Note That Paul Was Blind For 3 Days.

ACTS 9:8-9 "and Saul arose from the earth, and his eyes having been opened, he beheld no one, and leading him by the hand they brought him to Damascus, (9) and he was three days without seeing, and he did neither eat nor drink."

■ Please Note That Paul Went Away For 3 Years, Apparently To Be Taught Of The Lord By God.

<u>GALATIANS</u> 1:18 "then, after three years I went up to Jerusalem to enquire about Peter, and remained with him fifteen days, (19) and other of the apostles I did not see, except James, the brother of the Lord."

■ Please Note The Prophetic Significance Of This. In The "Day For A Year" Standard in Bible Prophecy. Paul Was Blind For 3 Days- He Had To Spend 3 Years Getting His Spiritual Sight Back.

NUMBERS 14:34 "After the number of the days in which you spied out the land, even forty days, for every day a year, you will bear your iniquities, even forty years, and you will know my alienation."

EZEKIEL 4:6 "Again, when you have accomplished these, you shall lie on your right side, and shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah. I have appointed forty days, each day for a year, to you."

This Was Done To Humble Them. As I Believe It Was Done To Paul.

DEUTERONOMY 8:2 "You shall remember all the way which Yahweh your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, to prove you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments, or not."

Paul Was Never Fully Recovered In Sight To Keep Him Humble.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7 "Even because of the extraordinary character of the revelations. Therefore, so that I would not become arrogant, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to trouble me – so that I would not become arrogant.

■ Paul Was Called By Jesus & Endorsed By Peter

Please also note that Peter was present at this meeting on Food Sacrificed To Idols, and the debate on if you have to become a Jew to become a Christian.

Peter Was Present.

ACTS 15:7 When there had been much discussion, Peter rose up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that a good while ago God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the nations should hear the word of the Good News, and believe.

Peter Regarded Paul's Writings As Scripture.

2 PETER 3:15-16 "Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you; (16) as also in all of his letters, speaking in them of these things. In those, there are some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist, **as they also do to the other Scriptures**, to their own destruction."

<u>So A Quick Recap:</u> <u>Paul</u> was present with Peter at the original discussion on the matter. <u>Paul</u>, with others, delivered the letters from the church. <u>Paul</u> was called by Jesus Himself. <u>Paul</u> was apparently taught by Jesus, either physically or spiritually. Peter valued <u>Paul's</u> writings and referred to them as Scripture or Holy written. Not to mention, <u>Paul</u> wrote about half of the New Testament. So, as we can see, Paul is trustworthy and a reputable source of information- an Apostle of God.