

# 119

## GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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### Pauline Paradox – Part 2 The Paul You Never Knew

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#### TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching continues the Pauline Paradox series by examining the life, ministry, and writings of Paul in order to determine whether Paul actually taught that the Law of God was changed or abolished. The teaching begins by reminding viewers that their faith should be placed in the Word of God rather than in teachers, traditions, or theological systems. Believers are encouraged to test everything according to Scripture and to focus on how faith should be lived out after entering God's plan of salvation through faith in Yeshua.

The teaching emphasizes that salvation comes through faith and not through works. However, true faith produces obedience. Obedience is presented as evidence of faith rather than the means of obtaining salvation. Because believers trust the Word of God, they should desire to walk as Yeshua walked and follow the commandments He followed and taught. The teaching argues that intentionally rejecting God's instructions after receiving knowledge of the truth is very different from accidentally sinning through ignorance or misunderstanding.

The lesson identifies three categories of professing believers. The first group believes and practices the whole Word of God and is called great in the Kingdom. The second group believes some of God's instructions have been abolished because that is what they were taught, yet they have not been adequately exposed to the truth. The third group has been presented with the truth but intentionally rejects aspects of God's instructions while still claiming faith. The teaching stresses the seriousness of this distinction by examining passages such as Matthew 7 and Hebrews 10.

The study then introduces Paul through the account of Stephen's stoning in Acts. Stephen was accused of teaching that Yeshua would change the customs Moses handed down. The teaching highlights that Scripture specifically identifies these accusations as false testimony. This becomes a foundational point because many later interpretations of Paul

claim that Yeshua changed the Law of God. The lesson argues that if Stephen and Yeshua were falsely accused of teaching that the Law changed, then this should affect how believers interpret Paul's writings.

The teaching examines Paul's early persecution of believers. Paul initially believed the false accusations against Yeshua's followers and participated in efforts to stop them. After Yeshua confronted Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul abandoned this misunderstanding and became a follower of Yeshua. The lesson presents Paul's conversion as a turning point in which he came to understand that Yeshua did not teach against what Moses wrote.

The study traces Paul's ministry through the book of Acts. Paul repeatedly taught in synagogues on the Sabbath and ministered to both Jews and Greeks. The teaching notes that Gentiles regularly gathered on the Sabbath to hear the Scriptures. Throughout Acts, Paul is repeatedly accused of teaching against Moses and against the Law of God. However, the teaching argues that these accusations are consistently shown to be false.

Special attention is given to Acts 15. The lesson teaches that the Jerusalem Council was not abolishing God's law for Gentiles. Instead, the four instructions given to Gentile converts were intended to separate them from pagan worship practices first. After abandoning paganism, Gentile believers were expected to continue learning Moses in the synagogues every Sabbath. The teaching argues that Acts 15 establishes a process of discipleship rather than limiting Gentiles to only four commandments.

The teaching also focuses on Acts 21, where Paul is accused of teaching Jews to forsake Moses. James and the elders address these accusations by stating that the reports about Paul are false and by affirming that Paul himself walks orderly and keeps the law. The lesson presents this passage as direct evidence that Paul practiced and taught the Law of God rather than teaching against it.

The study emphasizes that the Torah was not given exclusively to ethnic Israel. Several passages from the Torah are cited to show that the same law applied to both native-born Israelites and foreigners who joined themselves to God's people. Therefore, if Paul taught Moses to Jewish believers, he would also teach Moses to Gentile believers because Scripture repeatedly states that there is one law for all.

The latter part of the teaching examines Paul's own letters. Romans, Corinthians, and other epistles are used to demonstrate that Paul spoke positively about the Law of God. Paul teaches that believers should be doers of the law, that faith establishes the law rather than voiding it, that sin is defined by the law, and that the law is holy, just, good, and spiritual. Paul also states that he delights in the Law of God and teaches that those who are spiritually minded submit to God's law.

The teaching concludes that the common belief that Paul taught against the Law of God is based on misunderstanding his writings. It argues that the book of Acts and Paul's own letters consistently portray him as a teacher who believed, practiced, and taught

everything written in the Law and the Prophets. The lesson prepares the viewer for future teachings that will address specific passages in Paul's letters that are often interpreted as teaching the abolition of God's law.

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## SUMMARY POINTS

- Faith should be placed in the Word of God, not in teachers or traditions.
  - Salvation comes through faith, not through works.
  - Genuine faith produces obedience.
  - Yeshua walked in and taught the commandments of God.
  - Stephen was falsely accused of teaching that Yeshua changed the Law of God.
  - Paul originally persecuted believers because he accepted those false accusations.
  - Yeshua corrected Paul and redirected his ministry.
  - Paul regularly taught Jews and Gentiles in synagogues on the Sabbath.
  - Acts repeatedly records false accusations that Paul taught against Moses.
  - James testified that Paul walked orderly and kept the law.
  - Scripture teaches one law for both Israelites and Gentiles.
  - Acts 15 addresses pagan practices and discipleship, not abolishing God's law.
  - Paul taught that faith establishes the law.
  - Paul described the law as holy, just, good, and spiritual.
  - Paul delighted in the Law of God and taught believers to do the same.
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## FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

### Basic

- Believers are instructed to test everything according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- Salvation comes through \_\_\_\_\_ and not through works.
- According to 1 John 2:6, believers should walk as \_\_\_\_\_ walked.
- Stephen was falsely accused of speaking against Moses and against the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul first appears in Acts during the stoning of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Yeshua confronted Paul on the road to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Paul regularly taught in synagogues on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Acts 15 says that Moses is read every \_\_\_\_\_.
- James said that Paul himself walked orderly and kept the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul taught that faith does not make void the law but rather \_\_\_\_\_ it.

### Challenging

- According to Acts 6, false witnesses claimed that Yeshua would change the \_\_\_\_\_ Moses handed down.
- Peter warned that some people twist Paul's writings and are carried away by the error of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul taught that intentional and continual sin insults the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The four instructions in Acts 15 were given to help Gentiles separate from \_\_\_\_\_ worship.
- The Hebrew confession that begins with "Hear, O Israel" is commonly called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Numbers 15 teaches that there is one \_\_\_\_\_ for both Israelites and foreigners.
- Paul told his accusers that he believed all things written in the Law and the \_\_\_\_\_.
- According to Romans 7:7, Paul said he would not have known sin except through the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Romans 7:12 describes the law as holy, just, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Romans 8 teaches that the carnal mind is not subject to the law of \_\_\_\_\_.

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is it important to test teachings against Scripture instead of relying solely on tradition or popular opinion?
  - How does the teaching distinguish between salvation by faith and obedience that results from faith?
  - Why is the account of Stephen's trial important for understanding Paul?
  - What impact did Yeshua's encounter with Paul have on Paul's understanding of believers?
  - How does Acts 15 fit into the larger discussion about obedience and discipleship?
  - What significance does Acts 21 have in understanding Paul's relationship to the Law of God?
  - Why does the teaching emphasize that there is one law for both Israelites and Gentiles?
  - What do Paul's statements about the law being holy, just, good, and spiritual tell us about his view of God's instructions?
  - How can believers guard against misunderstanding difficult passages in Paul's letters?
  - What practical steps can believers take to walk as Yeshua walked?
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## ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

### Basic

1. Word
2. Faith
3. Yeshua
4. Law
5. Stephen
6. Damascus
7. Sabbath
8. Sabbath
9. Law
10. Establishes

### Challenging

1. Customs
2. Lawless
3. Grace
4. Pagan
5. Shema
6. Law
7. Prophets
8. Law
9. Good
10. God