

Comparing Paul to the Twelve Apostles

There are MAJOR differences between the Calling, the Message, and the Audience of the Twelve Apostles and the Apostle Paul. To not understand this will call one to misapply scripture.

Differences:

JESUS & THE TWELVE	PAUL
The Twelve Apostles represented Israel with the gospel AND were commissioned by Jesus to go only to Israel	The Apostle Paul represented the Gentiles (although he “stood before Israel, Gentiles & kings” with the gospel). Because of the differences in audiences and readership, Paul is easily misunderstood, causing one to misapply the message to either the Gentile or the Jew.
Chosen & Called by Jesus on earth	Chosen & Called by Jesus from heaven
<p>The message was exclusively “The Gospel of the Kingdom” to circumcision (Israel). Preached the “Gospel of the Kingdom” to Israel, offering earthly hope of continued earthy blessing and separation unto God for His exclusive purpose. The Gospel of Jesus & the Twelve also offered an earthly kingdom to be established as a nation earth. It came with the promise to use the nation of Israel as the vehicle by which the Messiah would come to bless the nations.</p>	<p>The message was exclusively the “Gospel of Grace” to the un-circumcision (Gentiles). Preached “Gospel of Grace” to the Gentiles, which was an offer of “inclusion” made on the fulfillment of a promise made by Abraham to bless the nations. Grace was the gospel made to Abraham through the promise to bless all mankind. It is through this promise that Gentiles entered a “spiritual kingdom” currently based in heaven. The promise came 24 years before the covenant.</p>
Taught from the Scriptures of the Old Testament Prophets of God	Taught from Revelation given to Paul concerning the “Mysteries of God.” Paul had a DIRECT conversation with Jesus and opened up many of the OT scriptures where the Mysteries were written but not understood.
The message was based solely on the “mercy of God” as found in the Old Testament prophecies and covenants (especially Abrahamic and Mosaic) that God would redeem them.	The message was based solely on “grace through faith in Christ” ONLY, apart from any covenant.
Jesus is the “Kindred Redeemer of Israel”	Jesus is the “Savior of the world”
Scope of ministry: To Palestine (or Judea) and the world where Jews were living	Scope of ministry: The rest of the world apart from Israel
The mandate was the “Great Commission” to Israel	The mandate was “Reconciliation” to the Gentile

The Jew is “justified” differently than the Gentile

Romans 3:27-31

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

28 Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,

30 since **there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.**

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law

See also:

Romans 4:6 -inclusion of the Gentile who is not under covenants of circumcision and the Law

Ephesians 2:4-10 -Explanation of how Gentiles were included in God’s redemptive plan by “grace through faith” and not by observance of the covenants and Law given to Israel

Galatians 3:10-14 -God redeemed Israel BY faith so that Gentiles could be justified THROUGH faith.

What’s the difference?

Justified BY faith

Israel was justified **BY** faith in God's MERCY which came through the PROMISES found in the Covenant of Abraham and Mosaic Law. They simply had to believe what God said to Abraham and Moses, i.e., “He would be a God to them,” and He would continually “bless” them apart from the other nations. They believed He would establish them above all the nations of the earth. He would send a “Kindred-Redeemer,” who would be a Prophet, King, and a priest. He would lead, them, thereby saving, delivering, and blessing them apart from all other nations. They were unaware of the “mystery of Christ” as a “suffering servant.” They were also unaware of the “mystical” Body of Christ. This was one of Paul’s revelations.

The Jews’ relationship with God is BY trusting God through the Covenant of Circumcision made with Abraham and the Covenant of the Law of Moses. This still required faith but was directed to the “God of Israel” before Christ appeared. Their faith was directed at God, not Jesus. It should be noted that “not all of Israel is Israel.” In other words, being Jewish in national identity does not mean that the Jew is one who expresses faith in God.

Justified THROUGH faith

The Gentile, however, was justified by “grace **THROUGH** faith” in Jesus alone. This was a “mystery” unknown to all of mankind until it was revealed to Paul. Jesus is the “Savior” of the Gentile (*the world*), but He is exclusively the “Redeemer of Israel.” To the Gentile this makes grace “appear” more **much greater** than mercy! From God's perspective, we had no relationship with Him until Jesus when the “mystery of grace” appeared.

After the Mystery of the Gentile was revealed from heaven, the uncircumcised was now able to enter into a relationship with God **ONLY THROUGH**, trusting Jesus apart from the covenants or the Jewish Law. Our relationship with God is exclusively “by grace **THROUGH** through faith” in Jesus and Him alone!