

**“CHRISTIANS ARE TO FOLLOW PAUL”**  
**... but if Christians follow Paul, how can they follow Christ?**

It comes as a shock to Christians that they are to follow Paul ... what does that mean?

Here are the reasons ...

1. Christ was a Jew ... **most Christians are not.**
2. Christ went to the temple on Saturdays ... **Christians do not.**
3. Christ obeyed all the 319 commandments, tenets, precepts, statutes, judgments, testimonies and old testament laws and so on ... Christians do not.
4. Christ did not eat pork or prawns ... **Christians love ham and marine bottom dwellers**
5. Christ approved and endorsed animal sacrifices for the remission of sin ... **Christians do not.**
6. Christ gave the Lord's prayer which has the condition that our sins will be forgiven if we forgive others of theirs ... **Christians do not pray this prayer.**
7. Christ endorsed and kept all the ceremonies, feasts and days of atonement ... **Christians do not.**
8. As well as preaching the kingdom of God, Christ's immediate concern was to bring in the kingdom of heaven ... **Christians do not.**
9. Christ was a pork abstaining, temple attending, Saturday worshipping and old testament law abiding Jew ... **Christians are not.**
10. Christ had his words and doctrine ... **Christians do not follow Christ's words or doctrine.**

**Q: IF CHRISTIANS FOLLOW PAUL, HOW CAN THEY FOLLOW CHRIST?**

## **A: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SUFFERINGS**

### **Christians follow Paul and his sufferings as he follows Christ and his sufferings**

The following scriptures explain that we follow Christ and his sufferings ...

[Romans 8:18](#); [2 Corinthians 1:5-7](#); [Philippians 3:10](#); [Colossians 1:24](#); [Hebrews 2:10](#); [1Peter 1:11](#); [4:13](#); [5:1](#) as follows ...

*"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." ([Romans 8:18](#))*

*"For as **the sufferings of Christ abound in us**, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ." ([2Corinthians 1:5](#))*

*"And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of **the same sufferings which we also suffer**: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation." (2 Corinthians 1:6)*

*"And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as **ye are partakers of the sufferings**, so shall ye be also of the consolation." ([2 Corinthians 1:7](#))*

*"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death;" ([Philippians 3:10](#))*

*"Who now rejoice in **my sufferings for you**, and fill up that which is **BEHIND** of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:" ([Colossians 1:24](#))...*

### **Paul follows behind Christ and his sufferings.**

*"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of **their salvation perfect through sufferings**." ([Hebrews 2:10](#))*

*"Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand **the sufferings of Christ**, and the glory that should follow." ([1 Peter 1:11](#))*

*"But rejoice, inasmuch as **ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings**; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." ([1 Peter 4:13](#))*

*"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the **sufferings of Christ**, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:" ([1 Peter 5:1](#))*

### **LESSON:**

Having been baptised by God's Spirit into Christ, **Christians shall experience the same sufferings to be made perfect**. This is what it mean to be conformed to the image of Christ.

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." ([Romans 8:29](#))

A **Christian's destination** is to be made perfect through sufferings. Christians will never become Christ, but will be **conformed to the image** that is Christ and his sufferings.

**THIS IS THE MEANING FOR A CHRISTIAN TO FOLLOW THE CHRISTIAN PAUL AND HIS SUFFERINGS ... AS HE FOLLOWS THE JEWISH CHRIST AND HIS SUFFERINGS.**

**Different dispensations, different word, different words, different instructions and different doctrine ...**

**but the sufferings are the same ... TO BE MADE PERFECT** ([Hebrews 2:10](#))

Put it this way, if Christ appeared today he would **not** be preaching the now superseded Jewish kingdom of heaven sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7) ... and vice versa ... Paul would **not** have preached the kingdom of God doctrine ... that is Romans through Philemon ... to Israel before the crucifixion ...

**CHALK AND CHEESE!**

**Who are you following?**

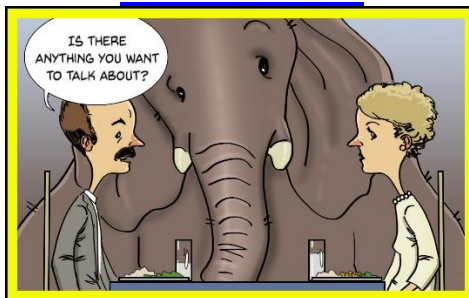
**Harley Hitchcock  
November 2023**

**www.  
AustralianBibleMinistries  
.com**



**MATTHEW ACTS HEBREWS**

## “CONTACT US”



Australian Bible Ministries, PO Box 5058 Mt. Gravatt East 4122 Qld, Australia  
[www.AustralianBibleMinistries.com](http://www.AustralianBibleMinistries.com)