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Paul the Jewish Theologian: A Pharisee among Christians, Jews, and Gentiles Book Review Brad H. Young, Paul the Jewish Theologian: A Pharisee among Christians, Jews, and Gentiles (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012) Pp. 164. Paper \$18. ISBN 978-0-8010-4821-0

In the reading Brad H. Young is the writer of this book has been part of the Gospel Research Foundations in Oklahoma as one of the people in charge of it. He is one of the people that started the school of Jerusalem of Synoptic Research. He has been doing his part as role model for this school allowing people see what has been doing. Young, has also studied to get many Degrees from a Bachelors in Oral Roberts University and also a Masters and Ph. D too from the University in Hebrew.

In this read of Paul the Jewish Theologian Brad H. Young write several chapters on it (ten chapters). He also grateful for the people that helped him into writing this book specially he gives thanks to two friends David Bivin and Dr R Steven Notley because of them they helped him into writing this book. He speaks about his book and explains that people will have such a better understanding about Paul and be able to go through what he went through, when he was preaching the word of God but still being judged by others.

In the foreword you can see Rev. Dr. Cheryl Anne Brown Professor/ Consultant Theological Assistance Group European Baptist Federation and Rabbi DR. Burton Visotzky Appleman Chair of Midrash and Interreligious Studies Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, Give their point of views into Paul and what they believe when it comes to Paul's life. Both people had some relationship with Brad H. Young as his friends and colleague of 25 years with Brown and created a vision with Jesus and Paul to teach the gospel with Visotzky because as both were studying the Hebrew Bible.

The Introduction of Chapter one, explains the type of person Paul was and how he was described by several people. He was a Pharisee who put his faith into Jesus. It also tells us that there isn't for proof that Paul left being a Pharisee in the New Testament, he was being rejected by the church which allowed him to always place doubt in his faith with Jesus because he was being tested many of the times. Even though Paul was being rejected his teachings today have allow many to have an understanding of his teachings in which allows you to have your own point of view of Paul.

In chapter two Paul the Jewish Theologian, Paul places himself into a path of his side of being Jewish to be able to get to the ethnic side of Asia Minor. He built bridges with those that were diverse communities. He was always giving himself more then he could handle because he wanted to make a difference with people all over, that was the type of person Paul was. Paul was never easy to understand most of the time because of his teachings. It created like scholars to misread what he was trying to tell them but other took it upon themselves to understand what Paul wrote in their own way to take. In Paul's Jewish theology it was hard for many to get his point other has disagreements about it until finally many reached an agreement on Paul's Jewish Theology after so long, but many reach to the point of finding where to start in which they started in Tarsus. Paul was a Pharisees that believed in the reward and punishment of God

depending on what you are doing in your life. On page 15 of the book Paul is described in two different ways “One source is the record of the book of Acts. The other is what he tells his readers about himself in his epistles this is of primary importance”. It all about who is Paul and how is Paul.

In chapter three, Pentecost, the Nations of the World, and the Apostle Paul, Paul is the Apostle that has traveled through many nations preaching the word of Jesus with such faith about God. Pentecost is a celebration to many of the nations that have dedicate to those that followed Jesus is the early times of him being alive. The Pentecost is told by the point of views of many and each tell the story of God and how they celebrate. The Christianity celebrate the birth of the church and the way the Holy Spirit is shown on the day of Pentecost with the Jews it is Passover and the story of God’s deliverance to the people of Egypt. The Pentecost is the celebration of it and how people celebrated it in their own way. As you can see even though it was different groups celebrating it, they all were the same because they all gathered together bring them unity to get together as one in festivals to connect with God’s redemption. On page 59 “In Acts. Pentecost means empowerment to serve others in need and bear witness to God’s favor.” God want us to have power but we must do the things he wants us to do to, to be able to earn his trust so that can allow us to build his faith with him to him.

In chapter four, Judaism and Christianity: Diverse Perspectives on Torah, this speaks of the Torah and the power of Paul and Jesus had over it. They both had such high thoughts on the Torah and believed that it was worth so much to them like it was money or something better. Jesus taught those about the Torah that he was there to not to abolish but to fulfill (Matt 5:17), the three words that would be used for this is “Law, abolish, and fulfill’ as you read on page 62. Just because Jesus said this many have taken it upon themselves to read it and understand it another way causing and thinking that Jesus was allowing liberty from the Yoke of the law. When it comes to Marcion he didn’t have the same mind set as Jesus did on the Judaism and he also didn’t believe is Paul’s thoughts too. Marcion’s point of views is so very different that you can say everything Jesus and Paul said and did, Marcion didn’t like at all even the Torah was way off. You can say the Torah played a huge part of creating the differences point of views within everyone that took part of this chapter.

In chapter five, The Torah: Roots of Grace and Faith in Paul’s Message it speaks of the law of God and how God is in the New Testament and the Old Testament. Paul ` n wants his message about God to be able to reach those around him that listens. No matter where you go to hear about God, he will always be in written like the Testament and even in the Hebrew scriptures. God will always be the same God no matter where he is located at. This chapter explains that God want people to repent from their sins so they can enter the doors to be with God. Your salvation with God is going to be the way you allow it to be created and that what Paul did. He did what he was told by God no matter the looks and judgements by people, but his faith allow him to have the strength he needed. Paul teaches his faith and when you do what God intends you to do for him, he shall reward you with gifts that you have earned because of the love you have for God.

In chapter six, Torah The Dead Letter or the Living Word?, Paul speaks about the Torah the message it gives out as an example of the dead husband in (rom 7:1-6). That once married husband and wife are together but once the husband passes away then the wife is free by law from the husband. Paul was trying to go into detail about the Torah and show the deeper meaning that it had when it came to the message the Torah had to share. Paul was trying to share the message of death and that once you die that also your flesh dies too because the flesh dies with

sin in it and we don't take that with us once we die to be with God. We as individual are born alone and we die alone and don't take anyone with us. On page 92-93 "The apostle declares "for he who has died is free from sin (Rom 6:7) ..."

In chapter seven, The Transcendence of Torah in Paul's Teaching, this chapter is about Jesus, Paul and Marcion. Marcion's point of view on the Torah painted this ugly view on it, that the Torah had a dark teaching of God. As you see Jesus and Paul, they both had the same views of the Torah, many thoughts they both should be described as Jewish theologians because of the way they both viewed their Jewish heritage. Jesus and Paul were always similar, but one they that made different than the other was that Paul was working with the Gentiles in the Diaspora while Jesus lived with the people of Israel. They both were very hands on when it came to sharing the teaching of the Torah. With Marcion he basically made it his mission to harm the teachings of Paul about the Torah, Marcion wanted people to have this mind-set that the Torah was a bad use and was dark too. He was rejecting Paul's messages and teachings because he didn't believe in. At the end even though Marcion was doing this, yes, he caused many to start believing in what he thought, but at the end Jesus and Paul had people that believed in their teachings and their faith towards God.

In chapter eight, Love as the Foundation of Christian Ministry: The Model of 1 Corinthians 13, Paul is questioned about the scripture of 1Cor 13 if he really was the one that wrote it, did he take and rewrote it in his own words? Because this is written in such a beautiful way that make you feel such love. People were wondering if he really did write this. It was causing issues like "should we believe at his prophet is he really telling us the truth, is that one saying the right things that God has told him to tell us? That why you need to understand that om page 110 "... from Rabbinic literature the mirror or lens refers to prophetic...". The mirror or lens is about seeing yourself on the mirror the reflection of what you see causes you to see the beauty or ugly of the person meaning yourself. To build yourself you need to build the foundation that will with stand everything that comes to you.

In Chapter nine, The Essence of Paul's Jewish Faith, this is about our salvation-by-works religion. This is the side of Paul that is Jewish, how is the point of view from this side different from a Christian view of God? In the beginning of the chapter, you read the part of "hear O Israel the Lord our God the Lord is one" (Pages 114 &117) (Deut. 11:13). This is telling us that God and Lord are one or the same and people tend to doubt that and believe in something else. The power of God's reign is another thing that is spoken in this chapter in the parables (Page 118)" they told parables: To what may the matter be compared? To one who... Kingdom of heaven with joy." God is in the Hebrew Scripture and spoken about him in it too. At the end of the day anyone can be part of the work of God they just have to put their part into his faith and allow God to do what he need to do so we can reach the Kingdom of Heaven. On Page 130 "The natural produce of the spirit's growth to the Christians is "love, joy, peace, patience, kind-ness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness, self- control." I believe you need to have the control on this so that the grace of God can be upon you and that your faith with God can grow too.

In chapter ten, Seven Pillars of Paul's Jewish Theology, Pauls life was never easy, but he was not one to give up on the path that God had for him. He was always going to be a Pharisees and never allowed himself to change that even if there were people judging him for his belief. He knew was on his side and God being a higher power had such great plans for him because Paul did what was asked of him by God. He had a mission and this made him look different from Jesus so people wouldn't compare himself to Jesus because Jesus was one that died for our sins

and loved all those that even hated him. Paul had seven pillars to follow and once he finished them, he was done with those pillars that God had for him.

After reading this book I can say that there is a lot to say about Paul that people will agree with and disagree with because people like Marcion have made it their mission to make Paul look like the bad guy and also make Jesus look bad too. I believe that you can have disagree with things and don't like what people do, but I've learned you must have a respect for someone else's ideas of what they believe in. It's never fair that Marcion was say things about the Torah being such a dark use to brain-wash people. There will people that don't agree with the same thought of thinking like you but is it okay for you to speak out of term with negative word? I believe no because everyone thinks different and that what created the world to be different because we have different people. I think I would tell people about this book if they wanted to learn more about Paul and if they are going through a hard patch like Paul because Paul's faith was always tested every day of his life allowing him to always place God first in his life. He knew that God would never leave him even in the worst time of hie life.