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BIB 201: New Testament Literature: OC

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Week 8 DQ2: The Quest for the Real Paul

During the presentation, they discussed Paul, in particular his journey to proclaim the gospel and some of the prophecies he made that sounded questionable. After seeing "The Quest for the Real Paul," I learned things that had never occurred to me before, such as the assertion that Paul is the creator of Christianity and that he attempts to build a new religion. To be completely honest, I had never heard of it, and when I did, I was surprised. He said that Paul did not see himself as a Christian but rather as a disciple of Jesus and a part of the Church of God, and I disagreed with him on this point. The fact that he emphasizes and discusses the Church of God frequently throughout the book is acceptable to me. Eph 1:22 in particular says, "And he has put all things under his feet, and has made him head over all things to the Church." I might conclude from all of this that, in accordance with Acts 11:26, the term "Christian" originated with the inhabitants of Antioch. Assuming Paul did not see himself as one of the "Christians," which we define as the disciples of Christ and known to be the followers of Christ, that would seem to be in conflict with itself. I believe we should all continue to refer to ourselves as Christians by using the words "followers of Christ or disciples of Jesus," although he does not consider himself to be a Christian. "We ought to copy the apostle Paul, as he imitates Christians," the apostle Paul says. The future? God may or may not have disliked the phrase. The important query is whether Jesus would have approved of such a designation if He had been alive and present on Earth at the time. Or would He remain with Christ's adherents or disciples? I mean, John the Baptist's disciples were not considered Baptists; they were called his disciples. So it is best we actually stick with being Jesus' followers, or His disciples.

