

## **If Paul Sat Down to Write Us a Letter Today**

**By: David Burruss**

Imagine Paul, the apostle of Christ, sitting quietly at a desk. A scroll is stretched out before him, and his hand hovers over it with a worn quill. His brow is furrowed. Not because he's unsure of what to say, but because the church he's writing to is fractured, confused, and drifting from the truth. He's thinking about us.

Paul's letters were never written casually. They carried the weight of divine authority and the urgency of a man burdened for souls. He reminded early Christians of who they were in Christ, and he corrected them when they strayed. Above all, he called for unity. Not just in spirit, but in doctrine.

In Ephesians 4:4–6, Paul wrote, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.” He didn't teach multiple paths or a gospel with interchangeable parts. He taught that there is one church, one truth, and one way to be saved.

That message has become diluted in our time. Today, many claim to be on different roads that all supposedly lead to heaven. Some believe that simply saying a quick prayer guarantees salvation, no matter how they live afterward. Others insist that baptism is optional, treating it like a symbol rather than a command. But none of this lines up with what Paul actually taught or what the New Testament reveals.

One of the most quoted verses today is Romans 10:9. It says, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” That verse is powerful, but it is often misunderstood. Paul wasn't writing to unbelievers. He was speaking to Christians in Rome, people who had already believed, repented, and been baptized into Christ.

We know this because just a few chapters earlier, Paul reminded them of their baptism. In Romans 6:3, he wrote, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?” That is when they came into contact with the blood of Christ. That is how they were united with His death, burial, and resurrection.

Paul continued in verse 4, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death.” Baptism was not an optional religious act. It was the very moment they entered into covenant with Christ. It was where the old life ended and the new life began.

So when Paul spoke of confession and belief in Romans 10, he was not offering a new formula for salvation. He was calling believers to remain faithful, to live out what they had already obeyed. Salvation was never about repeating words. It has always been about obedient faith. A faith that submits, repents, is baptized, and continues walking in the light.

But that is not the message many people hear today. The gospel has been reduced to a one-time prayer. There is little talk of repentance or surrender. Baptism is often delayed or dismissed. And many are taught that once they are saved, nothing can ever separate them from God, even if they return to sin and rebellion.

That is not the gospel Paul preached. He wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:27, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” Paul did not take his salvation for granted. He understood that faithfulness mattered.

He also addressed division in the church. In 1 Corinthians 1:10, he pleaded, “that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” But today, we see thousands of denominations teaching different things while still claiming to follow the same Christ.

Jesus did not establish many paths. He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). That is not a suggestion. That is a statement of singular authority. Paul echoed this again

**and again. There is one body. One faith. One baptism. The early church taught the same message in every city, and they expected the same response from every soul.**

**If Paul were writing to us today, I believe he would plead with us to return to the true gospel. Not a version that is easier or more popular, but the one that saves. He would call us to cast off traditions and teachings that came from man and hold fast to what was delivered by the Spirit.**

**He would remind us that we are not saved by slogans or short prayers. We are saved by grace through faith, and that faith is active. It repents. It obeys. It is baptized into Christ. It walks daily in the Spirit. It does not trust in emotional experiences or comfortable doctrines but in the living Word of God.**

**There is still one Lord. One faith. One baptism. One truth.**

**And there is still time to return to it.**