

Name:

Date:

Period:

## Paul's Contradictions: Can They Be Resolved?

**Directions:** Use the article to answer the questions below in the space provided.

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1. List the undisputed letters of Paul that contain what the author considers to be an anti-Israel viewpoint.
2. List the undisputed letters of Paul that contain what the author considers to be a pro-Israel viewpoint.
3. What is the "contradictionist" view of Paul's letters?
4. How do scholars such as J.C. O'Neill resolve the apparent contradictions in Paul's letters?
5. What is the "psychological bind" that some scholars see in Paul's contradictions?
6. What is the "subordinationist" solution, and which set of passages is always subordinated by scholars who advocate it?
7. In this viewpoint, of what is Paul considered to be the "father"?
8. According to the author, what are the two assumptions that readers typically make when reading Paul's letters?
9. What is the "framework of assumptions" upon which the "old view" of Paul is based?
10. The author asks readers to imagine how we would interpret Paul's letters if we viewed them from the "other side of the time line." What does this mean?

11. Which of Paul's own letters does the author consider to be a refutation of the "old view" of Paul?
12. What was the story about Paul that circulated shortly after his death as an explanation for his apparent rejection of the Mosaic Law?
13. How does the portrayal of Paul in Acts "precondition" our response to his letters?
14. According to the author, what is the "pretty clear indication that Paul has been terribly misinterpreted" by traditional interpreters?
15. What are the two central themes in Paul's thinking to which his "eschatological intensity is especially relevant"?
16. Why was Paul's message to Gentiles "actively and vociferously resisted by others within the Jesus movement"? With which significant figures in the early church did Paul connect this resistance?
17. What is Michael Wyschogrod's "simple solution" to the problem of Paul's apparent contradictions on the law?
18. The author quotes an interesting line from the biblical scholar Lloyd Gaston: "for Paul, Jesus was not the messiah of Israel." What does this mean?