

## ***Jesus' Words Only—Or Was Paul the Apostle Jesus Condemns in Revelation 2:2?***

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Is Paul the Apostle really who he claimed to be? Or is he a false prophet whose writings should be excluded from the New Testament? Attorney Douglas J. Del Tondo deftly argues his case in the book *Jesus' Words Only – Or Was Paul the Apostle Jesus Condemns in Revelation 2:2?*

A self-proclaimed “evangelical Christian” since age 15, del Tondo informs readers in the book’s introduction that his soul-searching began as a result of questioning the Baptist doctrine of eternal security and the Calvinist doctrine of perseverance of the saints. After searching for answers, del Tondo was frustrated to find that although these teachings always originated with Paul, Jesus’ words seemed to contradict Paul’s. Irritated at what appeared to be an “incessant marginalization of Jesus in preference for Paul,” Del Tondo asks and seeks to answer the controversial question: “Why not Jesus’ words alone?”

A practicing attorney, del Tondo’s obvious skill for in-depth research and proficient prosecution is evident, as he lays down argument after argument to support his verdict: Paul is guilty of being a false prophet, and therefore, his writings should not be included in the New Testament. First, del Tondo says, Paul never made a valid prophecy, which is the only way a true prophet could add text to the Bible (Deut. 18:15). Second, the writings of Paul negate the law, which del Tondo says is clear evidence that he was a false prophet (Deut. 13:5). Third, del Tondo points out that Jesus’ mention of Balaam in Revelation 2:14 points to Paul as the Balaam-type figure in the New Testament church. (Balaam was an Old Testament prophet who taught that eating meat sacrificed to idols is permissible, as did Paul.)

Del Tondo uses evidence from both early Church History and scripture to weave a convincing case against Paul, although Paulinists would argue that there are numerous holes in his theory. The majority of evangelical Christians will most likely find Del Tondo’s charges heresy, saying that God would not allow his Word to be tainted in such a manner (Del Tondo even offers an answer for this). For Del Tondo and his claims, however, the jury is still out, and his book is food for thought for those who are serious students of the Bible.

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