Can we trust the writings of Paul?

I hope this is the Bible questions text line. I got this number from a very good YouTube I watched about 2 Corinthians 14:34 and 1 Timothy 2:11.

I have a question regarding the authenticity of Paul's letters. If Paul's letters were canonized by men how do we know that God had inspired that selection? I know with the Old Testament there are prophecies that have come to pass and common themes with different authors that proves its authenticity. Paul's letters on the other hand are sometimes difficult to understand and don't always seem to be consistent with scriptures. For example Paul says it's better not to marry but God in the Old Testament says to marry and multiply (to produce Godly seed). Also there are no prophecies in Paul's letters to count on.

Thank you in advance for your response.

You open up a valuable question. How can we know Paul’s writings are God inspired?

Contradictions - As far as contradictions in Paul’s writings I am not aware of any. When He talks about remaining single he is talking about what is better and not a command (1 cor 7:6). I don’t think he is contradicting the many biblical verses on marriage, yet as is Paul’s norm, he offers a different perspective. His point being that we could be used all the more in the kingdom if we didn’t have the responsibility of marriage.

As far as prophecies he does offer some that will come true in the end times. 2 Thes 2 tells us about the anti-christ for example and that has unity with the teaching of Christ & John.

So imagine that Paul’s writings were not included… wow the New Testament just got a lot shorter. Half of the New Testament is Paul’s letters. Half of the book of Acts is Paul’s missionary journey.

A lot of info would be lost. Most of our teaching on the family/marriage/parenting, all the gifts of the spirit, a lot of teaching on grace & faith, teachings on ministry and unity in the body of Christ…

So that is for you to think about, but now let’s look at scripture. Here is a scripture that declares Paul’s writings favorably – it’s author is Peter!

2 Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as OUR BELOVED BROTHER PAUL also according to the WISDOM GIVEN UNTO HIM hath written unto you;

So that’s a pretty good endorsement! It gets better.

2 Peter 3:16 As also in ALL HIS EPISTLES, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as THEY DO ALSO THE OTHER SCRIPTURES, unto their own destruction.

He endorses the Paul epistles and then, like you mentioned, points out that they are sometimes hard to understand… even that some people twist them AS THEY DO ALSO THE OTHER SCRIPTURES. So right here Peter is suggesting a perhaps calling Paul’s writings scripture. Also the writer of Acts, Luke, seems to portray Paul in a positive light.

I do believe the Paul letters are valuable and inspired. I have also been frustrated with Paul at times, but usually more study and prayer straightens it out. I hope this helps. Don’t hesitate to ask further questions. – Pastor Chris Fluitt