

## WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

### LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 6 January 2008

Damned angels and Gospel twisters

#### Galatians 1.1-10

#### To get started:

1. People often say we can never be certain about answers to 'religious' questions such as "Who is God?" and "How can I be saved?" Why is this, do you think?
2. What answers do people give to the question: "What is a Christian?"
  - (i) What answer would you give?
  - (ii) Where does your answer come from?

#### Comment:

*Galatians is a very powerful letter. It directly answers the two questions above but in so doing has produced a very mixed response over the years.*

*Galatians was central to Martin Luther's thinking during the Reformation. Luther's commentary on Galatians was influential on John Bunyan and instrumental in the conversion of John Wesley.*

*Yet it has been criticized as being too emotional, too personal, too intellectual, too spiritual and too controversial according to David Pawson.*

*Let's take a look for ourselves!*

#### Read Galatians 1.1-10

3. What is Paul's tone in v.8-9?
4. Put into your own words what Paul is saying. What are the implications of this?
5. According to v.6-7, what has got Paul so upset? How can we justify his response?

#### Comment:

*In v.1-10 we are told of a "different gospel" but we have to read on to find out what this was (you might like to do that for homework).*

*However, if we read v.1-10 carefully, we can find the main features of the true Gospel.*

6. Looking especially at v.1-6, what are the features of the true Gospel?
  - (i) What is the key word?
  - (ii) What does this word actually mean?
7. Why can't there be more than one gospel? Why is this such a serious issue?
8. How would you answer the person who says "Religion is just a matter of opinion – people should believe whatever is true for them"?
9. How can we communicate this clear authentic Gospel to a culture that rejects certainty in 'religious' matters? What might v.10 have to say on this issue?
10. Where does Paul's authentic Gospel come from?