

## WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

### LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 20 January 2008

Faith + anything = nothing

Galatians 2.11-21

#### To get started:

1. Surveys show that the vast majority of people still believe in God. In your view, how do most people think they can get right with God and be accepted by Him?
2. So far, in our series in Galatians, we have looked at STUDY 1 ...'Damned angels and Gospel twisters' and STUDY 2 ...'Under attack'.

Can you summarise each study in a sentence?

#### Comment:

*This week we look at how trying to keep laws and rules to be saved is the opposite of being saved by the Gospel of Grace.*

**Read Galatians 2 v.11-21** [Do not be put off by v.17-18, which are generally agreed to be difficult.]

In Galatians, Paul is opposing a group of people who are saying that to be a Christian, Gentiles must first become Jews. That means they must observe all the Jewish laws of the Old Testament to be saved.

The 'presenting issue' in this controversy is circumcision and food laws. The situation has become so bad that the Apostle Peter himself has been led astray.

#### Let's look at some background:

**Read Acts 10** [It may seem a lot but it is very exciting!]

3. According to v.14, why did Peter have doubts about eating certain foods?
4. According to v.28, why would Peter have been reluctant to visit Cornelius' house?
5. According to v.45, what was so surprising to the Jewish or the 'circumcised' Christians?
6. According to v.47, why did Peter baptise Cornelius and his family?
7. What is the great news here for all people?

#### Now looking at Galatians 2 v.11-21

8. Looking at v.11-13, why did Peter stop eating with the non-Jewish Christians in Antioch? In view of Acts 10, why is this surprising?
9. Looking at v.14-16, why did Paul confront Peter over this issue? Why is Paul's anger acceptable?
10. Why is the issue Paul confronts Peter over in Antioch the same as the issue Paul is writing about to the Galatians?
11. The title of this study is '*Faith + anything = nothing*'. Why is it that trying to get right with God through what we do destroys the Gospel of Grace?  
  
What are the 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalents of trying to be saved by what we do?
12. Why is it we can only be saved by the Gospel of Grace? Why is the Gospel of Grace an outworking of the love and kindness of God?

NEXT WEEK there will be no LIFE Group meetings. Please try to get to the Parish Prayer meeting, 8pm Tuesday 29 January at St Luke's. Let's not forget the lessons we learned last term from our series '*Too Busy not to Pray*'.