

WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 3 February 2008

From curse to blessing
Galatians 3.1-18

1. This is the fourth study in our series in Galatians. Can you summarise the three previous studies in a sentence?
 - i) Damned Angels and Gospel Twisters (1 v.1-10)
 - ii) Under Attack (1 v.11 – 2 v.10)
 - iii) Faith + Anything = Nothing (2 v.11-21)

Comment:

It is important to understand what has been argued previously because Paul's letters (and especially Galatians) are based on a sequence of well thought-out arguments.

Read Galatians 3 v.1-14

Comment:

In this passage Paul reinforces his argument so far by referring the Galatians to three issues: a) their personal experience; b) God's promise to Abraham; c) Jesus' work on the cross. He refers to these to illustrate why he said in 1 v.6-7: "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all."

Looking at Galatians 3 v.1-5 (their personal experience)

2. Why do you think Paul uses the word 'bewitched' (v.1)?
3. How do you think "Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified" before their very eyes (v.1)?

4. How did they receive the Spirit?
5. *Spend some time on this one ...* What is the huge significance of the New Covenant blessing of "receiving the Spirit"? ... *Use texts from other parts of the New Testament to illustrate your answer.*

Looking at Galatians 3 v.6-9 (God's promise to Abraham)

6. What is the relationship between Abraham and your LIFE Group?
7. How does God's promise to Abraham "announce the gospel in advance"?

Looking at Galatians 3 v.10-14

8. How does the law 'curse' us?
9. How does Jesus' death free us from the law's 'curse'?
10. What has Abraham got to do with the Gentiles in all this?

Now looking at Galatians 3 v.15-18

11. Who is Abraham's seed?
12. In the light of what we have looked at so far in Galatians, how can a Gospel believing person dialogue with:
 - i) A Jewish person?
 - ii) A person who goes to church but doesn't know Christ?
 - iii) A Muslim?
13. Galatians 5 v.1 says this: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."
What does the Gospel set us free from? Does this mean there are no rules to keep?