

WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 10 February 2008

Turning back the clock
Galatians 3.18 – 4.11

1. "I don't want anything to do with theology." This was a comment heard by Colin Cooper a few years ago.
 - i) What is the problem with that attitude?
 - ii) Why is theology important?
 - iii) Why do people have that attitude?

Comment:

By now I would not be surprised if there had been some heated debate, puzzlement and/or disagreement in your group as we have worked through Galatians.

Remember David Pawson's comments mentioned in study 1: (Galatians) "...has been criticized as being too emotional, too personal, too intellectual, too spiritual and too controversial."

Be encouraged! Your debate, puzzlement and disagreement are proof you are really engaging with one of Paul's most powerful but difficult letters.

Read Galatians 3 v.14 (not a mistake) – 4 v.11

Comment:

This is probably the most difficult section of the letter. You could probably write a book on every verse. We will look at it from the point of view of:

- i) *The purpose of the law.*
- ii) *Sons and slaves.*

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

2. How many years passed after the promise to Abraham, until the law was given? (3 v.17)
3. Why was the law given according to 3 v.19; 3 v.23; 3 v.24?
4. How does this reflect the love of God?
5. Does the law ever stop having a purpose for Christians? (*Expect some lively debate.*)

SONS AND SLAVES

Comment:

In 4 v.1-7, Paul draws the distinction between sons and slaves. He equates being under the law as being a slave and being under grace as being a son.

6. According to 4 v.1-7, how do we "receive the full rights of sons"?
7. What is our inheritance?
8. What is the significance of the word "Abba"?
9. It has often been said, "The Christian faith is not a religion it's a relationship."
 - i) Do you think this is true?
 - ii) If it is true, how does it relate to the SONS and SLAVES idea?
10. Why are the trappings of religion so attractive to people? What is it about law-keeping that appeals?
11. It has been said, "The proclamation of the gospel is the death-knell for all religion." Do you agree with this statement? Why/why not?