

St.Michael's - 12th June

Galatians 2:15 - 21

Luke 7:36 - 8:3

Way in

I want to talk about the letter to the Galatians - written by Paul...who is this Paul that writes letters - Eddie Izzard?
one side of a phone call..

the letter to the Galatians is short, pretty understandable and is often a starting place
it contains the heart of all that Paul says in Romans etc - but shorter!
it also reminds us its a letter - its written about something - and we are often left guessing what its about.

this is about grace, and its about the law and Jesus

Chapter 1 - Paul says hello and then he's into it - vv - I am astonished you're turing away to a different gospel -

aha somethings not going well here!

he had these converts

(MAP NEEDED)

and now someone has come along and turned their heads - saying that even though they're gentiles, they should be keeping the jewish law now

so in v11 - he says - who are these people you're listening to? are they like me - here's my credentials..

Chapter 2 - I even went to see the apostles - the original 11 - up in Jerusalem

Twice I went up..

then I met Peter and even he was eating with the gentiles!

so I challenged him

and then our passage - v15

even Jews know that its not the law that puts them right with God

only Jesus can put us right

if you go back to relying on the law - then a) it won't save you and worse b) you say that Christ died for nothing

either Christ saves us, and we trust in him

or we've got it all wrong

(e.g. - if you're drowning in the ocean and someone comes out in a row boat 1000 miles to rescue you, but you're hold onto a floating piece of paper instead.. then it wont' save you, and you say that the boat is no good either - can't hold both. bit long and convoluted!! see how time is)

then into diagram of law and Jesus:

Pauls's whole argument - needs a diagram:

Torah - Law - what is the law.. who gave it, who kept it and why..

what it means to Jews (what are gentiles) and what we think it means..

Jesus Christ - what he did, what it means for us

what it means for the law, what does grace mean

then into explanation:

Galatians - freedom in Christ

then some - Super apostles or later Jews come along and say - its not enough..
you should also be following the law

but even Peter didn't follow the law - I challenged him!

No one is justified by the law
no one is put right with god by the law

(Jews know that, Gentiles a bit confused!)

We know someone is not put right by the Law,
but by Faith in Christ alone

which life boat are you in...

can only be saved, put right, by faith in christ...

--- gets harder here - v17

because, or since, we met Jesus we recognise we need saving - we are sinful
that does not mean that Jesus condones or is the cause of sin..

v18 - I cannot go back to the law - Christ destroyed the law - if I start rebuilding it - i put myself
under the law (which cannot save) instead of Christ - who can save.

(how is Paul dead *through* the law? - is it his biography that following it so much as to persecute
Christians he met Christ?)

I am dead - to the law, and to myself. I have died with Christ
that is why the law does not apply
that is why I no longer sin
I live in Christ - his perfect sinless life - the law is finished..

once the law had a purpose - to keep the jews in relation to God - to tie them to God - to point them
out as special to god - why do we do this, because we are god's people etc etc.

But that purpose ended when Jesus became the way of relating with god
and the law showed we could not keep it, we fell short - it made us feel guilty
but christ is the answer to that guilt and that falling short

if you're going to go back to adding it all up again - then where will you be?
any attempt to add things to grace means that Christ died for nothing..

live in grace - its what jesus died for, what jesus wanted to give us - so lets enjoy it!!!
finally message of grace, grace, grace.

al about grace - women with oil - forgiven much- loves much
has received her forgiveness, lives by grace not law

we don't respond legalistically - don't meet law with law
but meet love with love...