

## Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Galatians 1: 6-12 by Norman Bonnett **Only One Gospel** w/c 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

My dear friends,

Once again, as I wrote recently, the Jewish effect is coming out loud and clear in the New Testament. The Galatians or may I say, “the foolish Galatians” (3:1) are allowing the truth of the gospel to be infected by the Jewish beliefs and practises that they should have left behind. This passage is declaring to us that we must adhere to the basic gospel – but:

### **What is the basic gospel?**

Please take a moment to answer this question because a sound foundation to one’s faith is essential.

I often say that there are two vital questions we all must answer if we are to enter upon the Christian journey -to be born again -to have peace with God -to have assurance.

- 1. Who was Jesus?**
- 2. Why did He die?**

Scripture is full of answers to these questions and I am at a loss as to put one above another but please look at: John 3:16, 1 Peter 3:20, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 5:8 and Acts 4:12. Read these verses and meditate on them.

Christianity at its heart is about Salvation, offered to us by the love of God causing the sacrifice of His Son to become a way of forgiveness for our sins. Read Colossians 1:1-12 and ask yourself, **are there other alternatives to faith, have I, do I, hold them?**

I remember in my youth believing that Christianity was “a way of life, be a good chap and all will be well for you”. Of course, this is true – but it is not the basic starting point.

When I coached the school running teams I would emphasise the importance of the finish and the necessity to stay in one’s lane -but are these the most important?

Paul is telling us in this passage how important it is to beware of false beliefs. **Do you think you have any?** Are you, like I was in my youth, firmly wedded to the idea that Christianity is more outward than inward, being respectable, a good person, attending church on a Sunday, clean living, a way of life?

Ask God to lead you to a clear commitment to the starting line of Christianity as you join the women at the foot of the cross on that bleak yet essential Good Friday. There is only one gospel and it is rooted at the foot of the cross, as we gaze up at the Son of God and led by God’s Holy Spirit within us proclaim as the apostle Paul did: I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:1,2),

May God richly bless us.