

THE CROSS AND PREACHING

Galatians 3.1-9

INTRODUCTION

Galatians 3.1-9 is a passage full of really big ideas:

Preaching – the crucifixion of Jesus – reception of the Holy Spirit – the law – faith – miracles – Abraham – righteousness and how you get it – blessing and how to get your hands on that too – Gentiles and by implication, Jews – justification – even the gospel!

CONSIDER ABRAHAM

A command to Abraham – **Genesis 12.1**

A promise to Abraham – **Genesis 12.2-3**

A blessing through Abraham – **Galatians 3.8**

THE BLESSING ALL MEN SEEK

Justified – judged fit to keep company with God

The unexpected and undeserved reversal of **Genesis 3**

A new slant on God: he justifies the wicked (**Romans 4.5**)

HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT THIS BLESSING HAS BEEN CONFERRED?

The Spirit as:

- guarantee and guarantor
- companion and counselor
- representative and spokesman

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST CRUCIFIED

- *firstly – how the cross of Christ deals with our sin*
- *secondly – how the cross of Christ shows God's love*
- *thirdly – how the cross of Christ removes division*
- *fourthly – how the cross of Christ glorifies God*

IS THE CROSS OF CHRIST SUFFICIENT AS A MESSAGE?

The fundamental task of the preacher is to set out the path to blessing – to show men and women how they can become fit to keep company with God by having their sins dealt with.

The message of the first preachers was cross-centred in every respect