

Study questions: How St Paul understood the Bible

1. How and why had the Galatians been 'bewitched'?
2. Why did Paul use the figure of Abraham to argue that keeping the whole Law/Torah is not a necessity for Christians?
3. Reflect and discuss the implications of: 'For [in Christ Jesus] neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything'.
4. As Christians who do we sometimes treat as insiders and as outsiders? Be honest.
5. Do we as Christians continue to set up false 'entrance' requirements in terms of gender, sexuality, class, race?
6. Why did Paul use Adam as an analogy of the one to come?
7. What do you think of Paul's idea of original sin? Do you take it literally or metaphorically? Is original perfection preferable?
8. Look at the Paul's Hymn to Christ (Philippians 2:4-9). Explain it in terms of his two Adam analogy. What does this tell us about becoming more Christ-like?

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name...