



Bible Challenge

Week of July 23rd

The Bible Challenge - Week of July 23

We are about to read a number of shorter letters by Paul in quick succession, spending a week or less on each letter. This week, we will read the letter to the Galatians, a church of mostly Gentiles which Paul founded on one of his journeys to spread the Good News. Paul's main concern in these letters is that some other Jewish Christians have visited the church he founded, and have misled them with false teaching. Therefore, Paul tries to make the main parts of his teaching very clear in these letters: that Jesus came to reunite everyone with God, regardless of their origin (Jew or Greek, etc.), and that one does not need to adhere to all of the Jewish law in order to follow Christ. (Having read the Jewish law, you should understand why that would be important!).

At the end of the week, we will also begin reading the Book of Proverbs. As the name implies, this book is a collection of sayings, supposedly uttered by Solomon. Most scholars today, however, think that these were probably the types of folk sayings we have even today, like "a penny saved is a penny earned." In general, the point of these sayings is to guide the young. They probably represent what the people of Israel thought wise people (like Solomon) should do, rather than instructions from God. Because they are mostly a collection of sayings, they have no real plot or cohesion. Don't spend a lot of time trying to figure out how these are related; there is not much holding them together.

Here is this week's reading schedule:

Monday: Job 28-30; Psalm 5; Galatians 1

Tuesday: Job 31-33; Psalm 6; Galatians 2

Wednesday: Job 34-36; Psalm 7; Galatians 3

Thursday: Job 37-39; Psalm 8; Galatians 4

Friday: Job 40-42; Psalm 9; Galatians 5

Saturday: Proverbs 1-3; Psalm 10; Galatians 6

Sunday: See you in church!