

NEW EVANGELISTIC PROJECT FOR 2018 *continued*

During WW1, various attempts at peace were made, from the unofficial 'Christmas Truce' in December 1914, through to US President Woodrow Wilson's 14-point plan leading to the final settlement. Ultimately, while the Armistice was signed on 11/11/1918, the terms of the peace were not agreed until 1919 – and WW2 proved how dissatisfied Germany was with the outcome when peace in Europe was savagely shattered again.

The **Gospel application** is ready made: while men are prepared to look everywhere for peace, all of their efforts are doomed to failure. Christ is the supreme – and solitary – source of peace for the human heart. **Ephesians 2:13-14** will be key to our presentation: *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace ...”*



MEETINGS TODAY

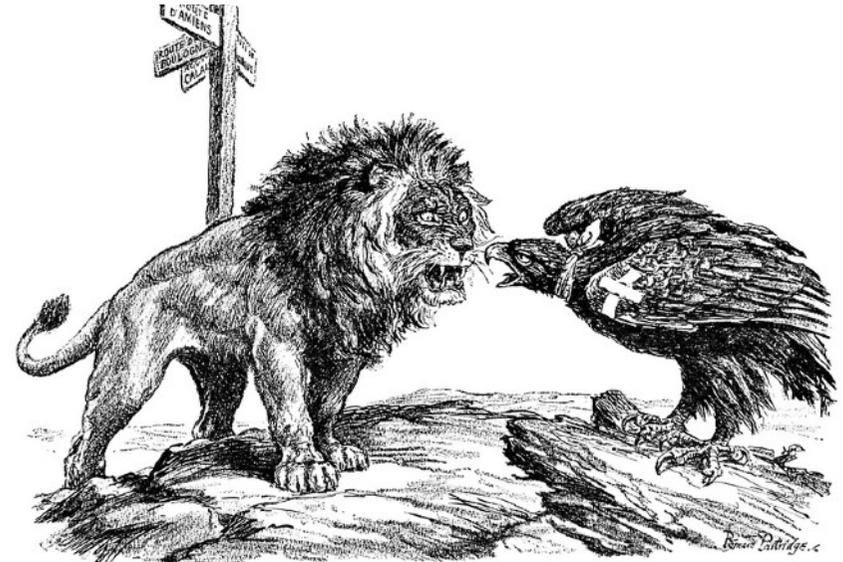
- Sunday School – 10.15am
- Morning Worship – 11.30am: *10th Message in the Galatians Series: “Before and After”*
- Evening Service – 7.00pm: *“Jesus Is The Lighthouse”*

INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

“Lord Jesus! Do Thou help me to feel my utter need of Thee every moment, that to the last hour, I may come to Jesus, as I came the first hour; wholly wretched in myself, and altogether insolvent. And, oh! The sweet thought to my soul: Under all the condemnation of the law, and the curses due to the breaches of it; Jesus is the Mediator, and the Fulfiller of the law, and the complete righteousness of His people. Be Thou, my honoured Lord, the glorious Head, and Husband, of Thy whole family. Thou art indeed the all in all, to the whole seed of Abraham; for in Thee shall all thy people, in all nations, be blessed.” [Robert Hawker]

martyrs

2 BULLETIN 2018



THE THREATENED PEACE OFFENSIVE.

NEW EVANGELISTIC PROJECT FOR 2018

We are indebted to the Lord for His blessing on our *‘Just By Faith Alone’* Tours in 2017. An estimated 1500 people came through our doors to commemorate with us the 500th anniversary of the great Protestant Reformation. At least half of these were schoolchildren, most of whom were from Belfast.

Recognising that we need to further develop these contacts with the schools – and that we cannot invite the children back to redo the same tour – the Session and Committee of Martyrs have approved **a new evangelistic project** for 2018. This year marks the *100th anniversary of the Armistice* – the end of the First World War. Commemoration of this event, when peace replaced the fighting, presents us with another ‘golden opportunity’ for education and evangelisation.



BEFORE AND AFTER

Text: **Galatians 3:15-29**.

We have become familiar with ‘before and after’ advertisements, whether these are for weight loss or hair regain. Paul travels on a similar trajectory - although in reverse - in **Galatians 3:15-29** when he contrasts life that is lived under bondage to the law with that which is liberated by the Gospel of grace.

This brings us to the third of Paul’s arguments against the Judaisers as he proves that God saves sinners by means of faith in Christ and not by faith + works. So we move from *The Personal Argument* (**3:1-5**) and *The Scriptural Argument* (**3:6-14**) to consider *The Logical Argument* (**3:15-29**). His chief line of argument at this point is that the Gospel Promise that God made to Abraham was not rendered void by a Law that came hundreds of years later. **Three points of contrast** between the Promise and the Law are examined that help us grasp the proper relationship between both:

[1] IN TERMS OF PRIORITY; 3:15-20 emphasises the fact that the Gospel Promise which God made to Abraham (**Genesis 12:1-3**) that through him all the nations would be blessed came first and is unchangeable; the Law, given centuries later, cannot change the Promise. (The promise is mentioned 8 times in this section).

(a) THE PROMISE WAS NOT SUPERCEDED BY THE LAW; 3:15&17. Judaisers implied that the giving of the Law changed the original covenant of promise; Paul insisted “no.”

(b) THE PROMISE IS NOT SECONDARY TO THE LAW; 3:19. Angels had a role to play in the giving of the 10 Commandments (**Deuteronomy 33:2**; cf. **Acts 7:53**, **Hebrews 2:2**, **Galatians 3:19**). However **Galatians 3:19-20** are about as difficult a brace of verses to understand as any others written by Paul! William Hendriksen: “*Instead of vexing the reader with 430 different interpretations to which this*

passage has given rise, I shall immediately state the one which appears to me to be the most consistent with the context.”

Though some today teach that the Law only applies to the Old Testament and since we live in the New Testament era we operate only under the economy of grace and are free from the law, Paul’s argument is this: while the Law has not been suspended, it certainly has not replaced the Gospel promise made directly to Abraham and us – and God’s plan of salvation for men remains the same; salvation by faith in the shed blood of the Substitute, Jesus Christ.

[2] IN TERMS OF PURPOSE; 3:19-26.

Just as a hammer is not bad because it cannot saw through wood, or a saw is not bad because it cannot hammer nails, so the real issue is that the Law was not designed to do what the Promise does. The two do not collide against one another, but cooperate together.

(a) THE LAW POINTS OUT OUR SIN; 19,22; and so:

(b) THE LAW PROPELS US TO CHRIST; sends us running to the Saviour (**3:23-26**). The Law taught the nation of Israel to look for the coming of the promised Seed, the Lord Jesus Christ. Its types and symbols pictured Messiah (cf. **Luke 24:27**).

[3] IN TERMS OF PRODUCE; 3:21,27-29.

(a) THE LAW COULD NEVER JUSTIFY THE SINNER; 21. It regulated life, but did not regenerate the soul. A ‘worship of the law’ led Israel in a cul-de-sac of self righteous works (**Romans 9:30-10:13**).

(b) THE LAW COULD NEVER RECONCILE MAN AND GOD; 28-29. The Law separated man from God (cf. fence around tabernacle and veil between the holy place and holy of holies). While the Law produces division, Christ’s Gospel creates reconciliation, between God and man, and man and man (**Romans 11:25-32**).

(c) THE LAW COULD NEVER MAKE US HEIRS OF GOD; 29.

God made the promise to “Abraham’s seed” – and this seed is Christ. When we are in Christ, we are Abraham’s spiritual seed.