

## WINTER MISSION IN TAUGHMONAGH *continued*

be that this open door will swing open again – much wider the next time – allowing us to further nurture the results of the efforts of a dedicated team of workers led by Jeff and Joel, who have been building on a good foundation laid by other faithful workers over the course of previous years.

In spite of the physical storm, the Lord’s blessing was evident in the meetings. 30 children were present on both nights; the Gospel Mission attracted visitors, including ten teenagers from the local area. **Messages received from parents** were extremely positive - including this one: “*Your church does an excellent job! Thanks for all the hard work for our estate and surrounding areas!*” Also: “*The boys loved it! They came home buzzing and I heard ALL about it. They’re just disappointed tonight was the last one, so if there are ever any more, please let us know.*”



### MEETINGS TODAY

- Sunday School – 10.15am
- Morning Worship – 11.30am: *9th Message in the Galatians Series: “The Resting Place for Faith”*
- Evening Service – 7.00pm: “*Let Me Speak about Strange Things!*”

### INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

*“Note, The labour of Christians will not be lost labour; they may lose for God, but they will lose nothing by Him; nay, there is more implied than is expressed in this phrase: it means that they shall be abundantly rewarded.*

*He will never be found unjust to forget their labour of love, Hebrews 6:10. Nay, He will do exceedingly abundantly above what they can now ask or think.”*

[ Matthew Henry – part of his comment on **1 Corinthians 15:58**: “... your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” ]



### WINTER MISSION IN TAUGHMONAGH

Our plan was to conduct both Children’s Meetings and Mission Services on **three consecutive nights** in Taughmonagh Primary School, from Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 January 2018. The outcome was significantly different. Due to the arrival of snow-carrying *Storm Fionn*, the local principal took the decision to close Taughmonagh school early on Tuesday, meaning our meetings could not proceed that evening. This was particularly disappointing in terms of reducing momentum in both missions and, given the fact that Tuesday is our regular night in Taughmonagh for weekly meetings, robbing us of our largest potential crowds of this three-day burst.

However, we must view this intervention by the inclement weather as **the outworking of God’s providence**: it may



## RESTING PLACE FOR FAITH

Text: **Galatians 3:10-14.**

*In the stars His handiwork I see,  
On the wind He speaks with majesty ... .*

These words, penned by Ralph Carmichael in the 1960s, and evidently draw their inspiration from texts such as **Genesis 1:16, Amos 5:8** and **Romans 1:19-20** which identify God as the Creator of everything, including the billions of trillions of stars in the heavens. It has been suggested that if the stars were divided up among the total population of our world, each person on the planet would each receive more than 1 trillion stars! However, if I want to study the blueprints of this great God who planned and organised the galaxies with reference to His incredible design to die for my sin, then I must transfer my gaze from His stars to His sacrifice. The Galatians had been treated to this dramatic sight; **Galatians 3:1** ... yet when they later fell prey to the false teaching of the Judaisers, Paul presents **arguments to them on five main levels** – and takes them through **six features of their faith**.

### [5] THE ISOLATION OF THEIR FAITH; 3:10-12

emphasises the fact that while the Law performed a vital function, it was never designed to do what the Judaisers wished to force it to do. They were trying to be justified by law-keeping, but the law had never been framed to save a soul!

In fact, the Law:–

#### (a) CARRIES A CURSE; 3:10.

It condemns those who fail to keep it completely (cf. **Deuteronomy 27:26**). Contained within the description of the awesome **reach** of the law (“*Cursed is EVERY ONE that CONTINUETH NOT in ALL things which are written in the book of the law to do them*”), is the implication that no one manages to keep the entire law, therefore **all** are under its condemnation.

#### (b) CANNOT CONVERT; 3:11.

We are not free to treat the law as we do the menu at a restaurant – pick and choose which portions we prefer (cf. **James 2:10-11**). The Law *cannot* justify the sinner (**2:16**), impute righteousness (**2:21**), convey the Spirit (**3:2**), procure a spiritual inheritance (**3:18**), give life or liberty (**3:21; 4:8-10**): instead, it convicts, condemns and curses!

Which is why Paul presses home the point that a sinner is **justified by faith alone; 3:11-12**. This truth, “*The just shall live by faith*” (first noted in **Habakkuk 2:4**) is so important that the Holy Spirit inspired three New Testament books to explain it:

- Romans explains “*the just*” and tells us how the sinner can be justified before God (**Romans 1:17**, cf. **Romans 3:21-31**);
- Galatians explains how the just “*shall live*”;
- Hebrews discusses “*by faith*” (cf. **Hebrews 10:38; 11**).

A final ‘flurry of punches’ from the apostle in this section where his Scriptural Argument holds sway draws attention to the truth that **salvation comes through Christ alone**:

### [6] THE INSTIGATION OF THEIR FAITH; 3:13-14.

Contained in these two verses is a beautiful summary of everything that Paul is saying in this section. All roads / answers lead us directly – and only – to Christ:

- Does the law place sinners under a curse? Christ redeems us from this curse.
- Do we want to share in the rich blessings of Abraham? They flow to us through Christ.
- Do we wish to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, even though we are of Gentile stock? This gift is mediated to the Gentiles through Christ.

Christ sustained the curse of our ruination (**3:13**, cf.

**Deuteronomy 21:23**) on Calvary’s tree (**Acts 5:30, 1 Peter 2:24**) so that we might receive the cure of His redemption.

“*Our acquittal is in this – that the guilt which made us liable to punishment was transferred to the head of the Son of God*” (Calvin).