

Galatians: Treading on Holy Ground

Galatians is often read as dealing with specific 'issues', and most often in the context of debates about the nature of righteousness by faith, or the exact definition of justification. All this is valuable and needs to be done. However, Galatians also provides us with a sociological example and theological model of what it means to fight for truth that has been once for all delivered to the saints (using the words of the letter of Jude). In this session we will explore what it meant for Paul to be entrusted with the truth of the Gospel, how this affected his understanding of his calling, and what this could mean for our role as theological leaders who have become experts in weighing probabilities and entertaining possibilities.

Dirk Jongkind is a Dutch biblical scholar who finished his PhD at Cambridge University. His main scholarly interest is in the Greek text of the Bible and the Graeco-Roman backdrop of Acts and the letters. Currently, he is the Research Fellow in New Testament Text and Language at Tyndale House, Deputy Senior Tutor at St Edmund's College, Cambridge, and affiliated lecturer at Cambridge University. He has done much work on Greek manuscripts and other remains from the ancient world.

I. Paul as a called apostle (Gal. 1:1-5)

A. Called by whom?

B. Calling and living on holy ground

II. Paul and the complete Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9)

A. 'Let him be accursed'

B. The tension between innovation and conservation

C. Personal stake

III. Paul and personal persuasion (Gal. 4:12-20)

A. The bringer of harsh news

B. Persuasion after the arguments have been laid out

C. Personal involvement