

Summary of Group Discussion - Week 1

1. Overview of whole work and passage
 - Standard letter format from that time period
 - 'Executive summary' of the epistle
 - Paul's calling and credentials
 - Themes:
 - i. The Gospel ('good news')
 - ii. Faith, not works of the law
 - iii. Grace
2. History and culture
 - Jews and Gentiles in the church - differences in approach
 - No written gospel yet - Paul was talking about 'good news'
3. Tools
 - Overview
 - Placement of text
 - Plain/literal meaning
 - Holy Spirit
4. Further study
 - Words
 - i. Slave
 - ii. Apostle
 - iii. Saints
 - iv. Declared with power
 - v. Power
 - vi. Obedience that comes from faith
5. Useful reference books
 - John Stott commentary
 - Wycliffe commentary
 - Study Bible