

(1) O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: “Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?”

(3) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

(4) Did you suffer so many things in vain --- if indeed it was in vain?

(5) Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith --- just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? (Genesis 15:6)

(7) Know, then, that it is those of FAITH who are the sons of Abraham. And the scriptures, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3) So then, those who are of FAITH are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

(10) For all who rely on works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by ALL things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” (Deuteronomy 27:26) Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the Law, for, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Habakkuk 2:4)

(12) But the Law is not of faith, rather, “The one who does them shall live by them.” (Leviticus 18:5) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us --- for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” (Deuteronomy 21:23) --- so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Think on these things:

- 1) Dictionary.com states that “bewitched” means “under a spell” and “affected by witchcraft or magic.” Paul calls the Galatians foolish because their beliefs about Christianity were changing. In this passage, we don’t get the answer to “who” is leading them astray, but we do see what they were teaching. Can you summarize their teaching by looking at verses 1-5?

- 2) What is the answer to the question in v.2? How do we receive the Spirit of God in our lives?

- 3) Skim these verses to see the role of the Holy Spirit in a Christian’s life:

a. John 3:3, 5-6 _____

b. John 14:15-17, 25-26 _____

c. John 16:12-15 _____

d. Romans 8:14, 26-27 _____

e. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 _____

f. Ephesians 1:13-14 _____

4) V.4 indicates this church had experienced suffering for Christ as Christians. However, with their changed "focus," they seemed to be more like what religion? _____

5) What was Abraham's approach to righteousness before God, working for acceptance or belief? _____

6) How does Paul explain (vs. 7-9) the true descendants of Abraham in Romans 8:1-4; 9:6-8; 9:30-10:4? According to v.7, what are we to "know"?

7) How do you understand v.8 stating that the "Gospel was preached to Abraham"?

8) According to vs. 10-11, why is "working" for your righteousness before God and earning your salvation a BAD idea? What is "evident"?

9) How did Christ redeem us from "the curse of God's Law" (v.13)? Through Jesus, what two things do we receive?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: