

(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?

To truly please God, you need to know and observe all the Laws He gave us through Moses. You need to live like a Jew.

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

By hearing God’s Word with faith --- we are born again by the Holy Spirit.

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

- a. John 3:3, 5-6 **He gives believers a ‘new birth’ into God’s family so we can enter heaven.**
- b. John 14:15-17, 25-26 **He is the Spirit of Truth dwelling within us. He is our teacher in Jesus’ absence, and helps us remember what Jesus said.**
- c. John 16:12-15 **He prophesies and guides us into truth. He glorifies Jesus.**

- d. Romans 8:14, 26-27 **He confirms we are God's children and intercedes for us. He helps us to pray.**
- e. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 **He gifts us for service in our churches as He wills.**
- f. Ephesians 1:13-14 **He is our "seal", the guarantee of our inheritance until we possess it**

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?

Judaism

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

Belief (v.6)

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"?

Abraham's descendants are "people of faith", not simply those who can trace physical lineage to his life (Jew or Arab).

We are to know that people of FAITH are Abraham's children.

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

When God declared that, "In you all nations will be blessed", He let Abraham see that His grace in response to Abraham's faith went beyond Abraham and his physical lineage (Jews).

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

We must obey ALL laws. To be guilty of failing even one law makes us guilty of failing to obey all laws. It is evident that NO ONE is justified before God by endeavoring to obey all the Laws.

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

Jesus became the curse for us. Through Him we receive: 1) Blessings for the Gentiles; and 2) the Holy Spirit by faith.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: