

Bible Study – Galatians 3:1-14
July 1, 2020

Chapters 3 and 4 of *Paul's letter to the believers in Galatia* stress the certainty of SALVATION by GRACE ALONE. Here, Paul shifts the tone of his letter with an exclamation, saying, "**O, foolish Galatians!**" Let's read the third chapter at **v. 1:**

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you ***THAT*** you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes **Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?**

²This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** — ³Are you so foolish? *Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?* ⁴Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

Foolish refers to: **Those who knew better, but failed to use what they knew.**

Consider also: **James 4:17 - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.**

Name a key concept from **John 15**, which would have spared many a believer much grief:

Paul went on to ask in **v. 2** "*This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit **by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?***"

Christ alone is the door through which we must enter... **John 14:6.**

Picking up with v. 5-9 - Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by *the hearing of faith*?⁶ **JUST AS** Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”⁷ **THEREFORE** know that only those who are of faith are **sons of Abraham**.⁸ *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.”*⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

The question in **verse 5**, as to whether this God who supplies us with His Holy Spirit, and this God who works miracles among His people...

Did He do so by the works of the law? Or, did God do such things because our FAITH?

Consider v. 5-7 in light of **Genesis 15:6**.

You may want to read Genesis 12 – 15 for additional study.

Abraham did not earn his way to heaven by _____.

He had good works BECAUSE _____

to be pleasing to the Lord.

Regardless of our ethnicity, we become **sons of Abraham** through _____.

“ALL the families of the earth will be blessed.” (**Gen. 12:3**, 18:18, 22:18)

Let’s continue with v. 10ff –

¹⁰ For as many as are **OF the works of the law** are UNDER the curse; for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*”¹¹ But that no one

is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “*the just shall live by faith.*”

¹² Yet the law is not of faith, but “*the man who does them shall live by them.*”

[Ref.: Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:38]

¹³ **Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us** (for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*”),

[Ref.: Deuteronomy 21:23]

¹⁴ **that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, THAT we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

What is the **blessing of Abraham?**

What is the **blessing of the promise of the Spirit through faith?**

Consider: **Acts 1:1-4-8** – The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² **until the day in which He was taken up**, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, **being seen by them during forty days** and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

⁴ And *being assembled together with them*, **He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father**, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ *for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*” ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

Consider **Acts 2:39** – **“For *the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.*”**