

# **Galatians 3:1-14**

## **“... in White Hot Anger...”**

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? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 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”?

Gal 3:1-6 (ESV)

# This Young Church

## Great start

- Embraced salvation by grace through Christ Jesus,
- His crucifixion and resurrection
- The Lord helped them weather the storms,
- Performed miracles

## But Something Changed

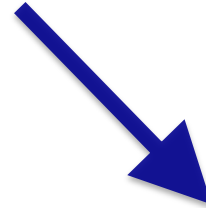
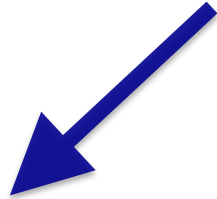
- Others moved in
- Began teaching that the only way of salvation, the way to curry God's favour
- Was through obedience to the Torah, the OT law

# The Crux of this Letter

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? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*** Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 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”?

Gal 3:1-6 (ESV)

# How Are We Saved?



**Earned**  
by works  
of the law?

**Received**  
by hearing  
with faith?



**Flesh**

## **False Gospel**



**Circumcision**



**Performance  
driven salvation**



**Trust in self**



**No need for Christ**

## **True Gospel**



**Christ Jesus, finished  
work on the Cross**



**Motivated and  
empowered by the  
Holy Spirit**



**Respond to His love**

*“we have only  
done what was  
our duty”*

*Every part of the  
Christian life is  
based on faith*

**True Gospel**



**Christ Jesus, finished  
work on the Cross**



**Motivated and  
empowered by the  
Holy Spirit**



**Respond to His love**

# Questions

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? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ***Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 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”?

Gal 3:1-6 (ESV)

# “Hearing with Faith”

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Gal 3:1-6 (ESV)

# Hearing with Faith (Listening)

*works of the law*



*rule keeping*

*hearing with faith*



*paying attention  
to God*

**keeping rules means nothing  
if we have stopped  
paying attention to God**

# Abram's Relationship with God

... the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ... And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and ***he counted it to him as righteousness.***

Gen 15:1-6 (ESV)

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Gen 15:1-6 (ESV)



***because he paid attention to God***

# Blessed with Abraham

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Gal 3:7-9(ESV)

**By our hearing with faith we become adopted descendants of Abraham.**

**All *those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.***

# The Other Side of the Coin

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.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” 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”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:10-14 (ESV)

# **Legalism (Works of the Law)**

**Philosophy, effort, to keep the law**



**Earn God's favour  
Put God into our debt**

**Legalism**  
**(Works of the Law)**

**Philosophy, effort, to keep the law**

**Earn God's favour**  
**Put God into our debt**

**God is no man's debtor!**

# The True Gospel Vs. Legalism

- X Law does not produce faithfulness**
- ✓ Faith produces lawfulness**

... faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

James 2:17-18 (ESV)

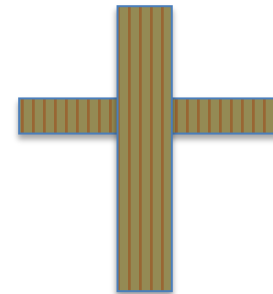
# The Heart of the Gospel

For our sake He made Him (Christ Jesus) *to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God*

2 Cor 5:21 (ESV)

When Jesus experienced the curse of the law on the cross,

- it was not His own curse
- but ours.



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Gal 3:10-14 (ESV)

# A Diagnostic Tool...

- **“If you were to die right now, what is the likelihood that God would admit you to His heaven?”**
- **How much of our sin was placed on Jesus as He went to the cross?**
- **If Jesus took all our sin, how much is left for you to deal with?**
- **So why are you relying on your good works to make you right before God?**

# Christianity is Unique

**Christianity - do not do good deeds to be in a good position with God (or the gods)**

**Others - need to do good deeds to win the favour of God (or the gods)**

## Good News!

- **God has sovereignly intervened ... in the person of Jesus the Christ**
- **through His death and resurrection**
- **now offers us mercy to cover our many sins,**
- **then provides us with grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to live righteously**