

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 10TH, 2024 // GALATIANS

## BLURRED VISION (GALATIANS 3:1-9) YOU FOOLISH GALATIANS!

Paul is direct and stern in addressing the Galatians' view of the work of Christ for them.

- Paul was not saying they lacked morality or the mental capacity to understand, but they failed to use their power of perception. **They had knowledge and understanding but had fallen under a "deceptive spell" of the Judaizers.**

## A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

Paul encouraged the Galatians to **keep their eyes focused on Jesus and the truth of the cross** as it had been "publicly portrayed" to them.

- Paul asks five rhetorical questions in his letter to the Galatians (v. 2-6) to help them see that **they had accepted these wrong and unbiblical ideas without thinking them through or testing them.**

## WHY FIX IT IF IT ISN'T BROKEN?

They initially received the Spirit through faith, not works, but now **they had been deceived into thinking that maturity could be achieved through works of the flesh instead of through continued faith in Christ.**

- Paul's message is direct: **finish the race as you started. Why would you switch up now?**

## "DID YOU EXPERIENCE SO MUCH FOR NOTHING?"

Some translations say, **"Have you suffered so many things in vain?"** We know that Paul and his companions were previously persecuted in this area (Acts 14) by the Jews. It seems that **Paul is wondering if all the gifts they received by the Spirit through faith were of no value to them** because they were turning and trying to walk according to the law and not faith.

## MADE RIGHTEOUS BEFORE CIRCUMCISION

Paul quotes Genesis 15:6 to show that **righteousness was credited to Abraham because he believed God**, not because he performed some work, like circumcision.

- **A belief in God without believing what He says is only admitting He exists, which is something even demons do** (James 2:19).

## ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU

Paul then interjects that **"those who have faith, these are Abraham's sons."** His real children are not those born Jewish, but his descendants are those who believe in God and are justified by faith, not the law.

- The good news proclaimed to Abraham would **go out to all nations and not force the nations to assimilate into Israel.**

## CURSED (GALATIANS 3:10-14)

### THE RIGHTEOUS LIVE BY FAITH

Paul addresses those who thought the law could provide a right standing before God by quoting Deuteronomy 27:26 to prove that **the law cannot justify and save but puts us under a curse since no one can keep the law perfectly.**

- Paul uses Abraham's life and another OT passage (Habakkuk 2:4) to show that **it had always been a person's faith that justified them.**

## BOUGHT OUT FROM UNDER THE CURSE OF THE LAW

Paul overwhelmingly delivered the bad news, but in verse 13, he explains the good news. The law, which no one could obey completely, put us under a curse, but **Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law.**

- **The idea behind Redeemed means "buying back" or "purchasing out of," which is more than rescuing; it's paying a price to rescue.**

## HAVING BECOME A CURSE FOR US

Paul explains how Jesus redeemed us. **Jesus became cursed on our behalf**, meaning He stood in our place and took the curse we deserved. By quoting Deuteronomy 21:23, Paul is showing that **Jesus fulfilled this transaction on the cross.**

- Paul says this was done **to give everyone the opportunity to receive redemption and the Holy Spirit by faith, not by works.**

## GOD'S UNCHANGING NATURE (GALATIANS 3:15-18) BROTHERS AND SISTERS...

Paul's point is that if people adhere to their covenants, how much more will God honor his promises?

- Confronting them as brothers, Paul recounts God's promise to Abraham that **in your seed all nations shall be blessed** (Genesis 22:18). Paul emphasizes the singular use of seed talking about Christ and not all descendants.

## GOD'S PROMISE IS PERMANENT

To clarify his point, Paul says the law came through Moses 430 years after **the promise made to Abraham and does not cancel that promise.**

- If the promise given to Abraham were on the basis of the law, then **it would not be permanent or guaranteed because it depended on Abraham keeping the law.**

## FREEDOM (GALATIANS 3:19-29)

### "...FOR THE SAKE OF TRANSGRESSIONS..."

To answer the question of why the law was given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, Paul answers by saying **we had gone off on the wrong track and the law laid down the right track.**

- The law was, in essence, temporary. **It was given to indicate we had deviated from the path and was to guide us until the Seed (Jesus) came.**

## COMPLETE ACCESS THROUGH CHRIST

Paul shows that the law was delivered by the hands of angels, who were the "go-between" ("mediator") for Moses and God.

- The law required a mediator to bring an agreement between two parties. **Jesus came to fulfill the law, not destroy it** (Matthew 5:17) **and to fulfill the need for a mediator. We now, through Christ, have access to God.**

## THE LAW WAS OUR GUARDIAN

The word "guardian" meant "a strict custodian who was put in charge" and was better understood in Jewish culture where a drill-sergeant-like "nanny" was assigned to a child to supervise and correct.

- The law **points out sin and oncoming judgment** if not corrected. In their inability to adhere to the law perfectly, **they should have longed for a better way to salvation.**

## "...BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST..."

The law is inferior to the promise but is not in conflict with God's promise. The law cannot save, and only **through faith are you all sons of God in Christ Jesus.**

- **By faith, we receive the promise given to Abraham as heirs, and we find our identity with Jesus Christ when we are immersed in him.**

## "...CLOTHED WITH CHRIST..."

During this time in Roman society, when a child became old enough to be considered an adult, he/she would change from children's clothes into adult clothes, showing they now had adult citizenship and responsibilities.

- **To be "clothed with Christ" also gives us new citizenship and responsibilities as we put away the old ways.**

## GOD CORRECTS THOSE HE LOVES

- Paul deeply loved the people in Galatia, and his correction of them was a byproduct of that love.
- **Are we at a place where we can be thankful when someone loves us enough to call out our "foolishness?"**
- **God proved His love at the cross (Romans 5:8) and when He disciplines us (Hebrews 12:6).**