

**Galatians 3:1** *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?*

Paul normally opens his letters with thanksgiving but this letter has a different tone. The Greek word for foolish is anoētos and means to not understand or to be unintelligible. It is extremely ignorant to believe we can move from receiving salvation into attempting to earn it.

The word bewitched is referring to something demonic and religion at its core is demonic and is influenced by the devil. The enemy gets his strength through law keeping because the person operating in their own ability and trying to refrain from sin is focused on self, which is their flesh that has no power (Mt 26:41). The enemy is pleased when we rely on the flesh to break the dominion over the flesh or when we attempt to try to stop something on our own and “quit”. The scriptures say the way we put to death the misdeeds of our body are not by trying harder, it is by the spirit and turning to the power of who we are in Christ to break the dominion of the flesh (Rom 8:13).

Any person that gets entangled with religion will always create distance between God and themselves. With a natural relationship between a child and their parent, if the parent only wanted that child to please them and work towards relationship that child will eventually turn and give up because it would become too much effort. This is the walk for many Christians today. They feel they have to please God and when they fall short, they have the mindset that God is displeased with them and in turn they go an opposite direction from God.

Religion began in the garden of Eden. Adam had everything but the enemy came and said do this, in other words perform. Adam fell into performance but did not have to. The enemy tried the same thing with Jesus in the wilderness and said turn this bread to stone, again; perform. Jesus knew who he was and that the Father was well pleased with Him so He did not fall for the lie. The enemy has no new tricks and does the same with us. Do, perform for God who is displeased with you. If we already know we are accepted (Eph 1:6) and God is not imputing sin on us (2 Cor 5:19) then that actually causes us to run boldly to our Father and approach Him with freedom and confidence (Heb 4:16, Eph 3:12).

The Galatians were not there when Jesus was crucified but Paul painted such a vivid picture for them of what Jesus came to do that it is foolish to think you would place yourself back into trying to earn right standing with God through works instead of just receiving it. The Bible is filled with imagery to show us a picture of drawing something back to our remembrance or to reveal something. God did this with Abraham seeing that his descendants would be as numerous as the sand and Gideon getting an image of the Midianites defeat through another person’s dream of barley bread tumbling into the Midianite’s camp.

**Galatians 3:2** *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?*

This verse opens with a tone that many parents can understand. Have you ever asked your child a question that you knew the answer? You were stern and asked not so you would know but for the purpose of them knowing? Paul now asks the question that we should ask.

Did we receive Jesus by works of the law or by believing what we heard? The answer is found in the next verse and it is simply by the hearing of faith or believing what we heard which was that Jesus Christ came for a propitiation of the sin for the entire world and anyone who puts faith in Him is imputed God's righteous and God has accepted them. We did not receive the spirit by any holiness or good acts that we had done.

The gospel is all Him, none of us. Paul asks this question because it is obvious to the Galatians that they did not do anything to earn their salvation, they just received it.

There are three things listed in this chapter that the law couldn't do and one is listed here. The law could not impart or give us the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 3:3 *Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?***

Paul now says we began by putting faith in Jesus' finished works. We began trusting in His work and we should continue our life trusting in it as well. Just as we received Jesus as Lord, we should continue in that which was by faith (Col 2:6). We should not trust God for salvation and then move into retaining it by our church attendance, baking pies for the women's group, or tithing.

Jesus said that we should be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect (Mt 5:48). The writer of the book of Hebrews says, "for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God" (Heb 7:18). The law itself was perfect but the problem was we weren't. The law could not make anyone perfect but through faith in Christ our spirits are now made perfect (Heb 12:23).

Christianity is to be lived by faith and it is retained by faith (Rom 1:17). The second thing listed that the law could not do is stated in this verse. The law could not make us perfect.

**Galatians 3:4 *Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?***

The suffering the Galatians experienced was not a sickness. The suffering that they had experienced was the same that Paul suffered which was persecution. Anyone can understand God being a Holy God and man needing to work to please Him, there won't be any opposition or persecution there. But the moment we start preaching God accepts man independent of their performance and sees Jesus when He looks at us, persecution will rise. All those who live Godly shall suffer persecution (2 Tim 3:12). If we are not being persecuted, we are not preaching the same gospel Paul preached (Rom 3:8).

Any time grace is preached to a religious person it becomes offensive because it tells the person who is working and trying to please God that their works mean nothing and God accepts them as equally as he accepts someone who may have just murdered someone, as long as they have put faith in Jesus.

***Galatians 3:5 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?***

Does He supply the spirit by some formula? The answer to this question is through the hearing of faith. We will not receive salvation or anything from the Lord because we can earn it. We receive by believing what we heard and that is hearing; Jesus did the work we just believe.

The children of Israel were not delivered out of Egypt because of their holiness. It was because they partook of the lamb. These were types and shadows of what Christ would come to fulfill on our behalf (Col 2:16-17). Likewise, when we partake of the sacrificial lamb (Jesus) we too are delivered out of this world and become right with God.

The same way we receive Jesus as Lord is same way we receive healing. We cannot earn healing and go to church enough to get God to heal us or confess the word the right amount of times then God will heal us. God purchased healing 2,000 years ago through the atonement (Is 53:4-5) and now I believe by His stripes I am healed (1 Peter 2:24). I go to church and confess the word because I am already healed, not to try to get healed.

The first thing the law could not do is supply the spirit. The second thing that the law could not do is make us perfect. The third thing the law could not do is work miracles. On the day of Pentecost after Jesus fulfilled the law on our behalf, we see the spirit being imparted to all who believe (Acts 2:18), man's spirit are now made perfect (Heb 12:23), and miracles are being worked through man.

***Galatians 3:6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."***

Paul moves into showing that even in the Old Testament, justification and righteousness never came through man earning it. Abraham just believed God and it was through him believing that righteousness was imputed to him.

Abraham was not perfect. He lied about Sarah being his half-sister twice to save his own life, he got in the flesh and had Ishmael, and married his half-sister (Sarah). It was not because he was living the most holy life and Paul goes into detail of this in the book of Romans chapter four.

In Romans chapter four the apostle Paul uses two Old Testament saints to prove justification is not through man's performance. One born during the law (David) and one born before the law (Abraham). Neither were in right standing with God based off their goodness.

***Galatians 3:7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.***

The true descendant of Abraham are not those of natural descendant but those who put faith in Jesus. Those that are children of the flesh or not the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as the seed (Rom 9:8). The Jews thought that by being a natural descendant of Abraham or a Jew, that God accepted them because of ancestry but God accepts those who accept Jesus.

Abraham is the Father of a spiritual race or group of people, not a physical one. Justification does not come through ancestry, lineage, or bloodline but through faith in Jesus only.

***Galatians 3:8 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."***

The gospel was preached to Abraham and was not something that Paul preached that was new. The Old Testament proclaimed that God would accept man by faith and the Gentile would be brought into the covenant. God gave Abraham a promise and told him that through him all nations would be blessed and this was well before Abraham had any children and was passed child bearing age. Abraham initially got in the flesh and decided to DO or work to get the promise God made to come to pass but when he believed God, he had the promise child which was Issac not Ishmael.

God's way of being in right standing with Him is never through trying to earn it, it has always been by faith. This message was not anything new and was prophesied in the Old Testament (1 Peter 1:10).

***Galatians 3:9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.***

In the same way Abraham believed God and righteousness was imputed to him, we too receive right standing with God by simply believing that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead (Rom 10:9). Salvation is easy, it is religion that complicates things.

Cooking a good meal has directions and there are times that the directions can seem so easy so we start adding more ingredients to the pot and it messes up the entire meal. Many people do not believe that they can simply be right with God just by putting faith in Jesus. They initially come to the Lord by faith because they recognize their need for a savior, but then they try to retain their salvation by getting into working and doing. This will only cause frustration.

***Galatians 3:10 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."***

Many people that are trying to work to please God must not have read this verse (Gal 4:21).

This verse says that if you do not do **all** the things of the law then you are cursed. There are 613 commands and the moment one of the commands is broken, you break the entire law. God's test scores require 100% and our flesh does not have the ability to fulfill all 613 commands because it was impacted by sin (Rom 7:15-24). The only person that was able to live the law out perfectly was Jesus and when He rose from the dead, He offered His righteousness to all who believe, thus they have fulfilled the law and are no longer under a curse.

If a person does not murder yet commits adultery, he has broken the law (Jam 2:10). The law was never intended to make us right with God but to expose our sin nature that we were born into this

world with (Rom 5:12) and to keep us from being deceived into every thinking we actually could be right with God independent of Jesus.

The intent of the law was never to make you right with God if you fulfill it rather to show you have you cannot be right with God independent of a Savior.

Anyone who has not received Jesus is in a constant state of DOING. The gospel is about BEING in that we are already everything we need to be the moment we put faith in Jesus. The person who has not received Jesus into their heart is under a curse because all were born into this world with a sin nature so all are under a curse (Gal 3:22).

***Galatians 3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."***

There is no one who will be right with God by there doing, it is through their believing (Gal 2:16). Slaves work but son's rest. When we put faith in Jesus was become sons with complete access to the Father (Eph 2:18).

Scripture is clear that even in the Old Testament transitioning into the New that the just shall live by faith (Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17, Heb 10:38).

***Galatians 3:12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."***

It does not require any faith to believe a system that focuses on yourself and revolves around you doing good to get good. Our entire world system is based off performance. It takes faith to believe that God accepts us based off Jesus' finished works and not our own.

The Greek word for does is poieō and means to produce. Any person that believes they can produce 100% holiness to God is deceived.

Believers today have turned the Christian Walk into exercises. Up, down, jump, stand, sprint, and jog. We wonder why Christians are tired and worn out not even wanting to attend church because we have made this about performing instead of resting in Christ finished works.

***Galatians 3:13 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"),***

Those who have put faith in Jesus are no longer under the curse of law. What is the curse of the law? The curse of the law is being under a performance-based system.

The law was based off performance and if you do good you get good, if you do bad you get bad. If you fall short the curse would come upon you. The consequences of being under a performance-based system is listed in Deuteronomy 28:15-68 and were based off the covenant that they were under during that dispensation. A believer no longer is getting what he deserves which are the curses but now is getting what he doesn't deserve which are the blessings listed in Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

A believer is not trying to get redeemed from the impacts that came into this world through sin. This verse says we are redeemed from all sickness, tumors, confusion, and anything else that came as a result of the fall. One of the first steps to victory is seeing what Jesus has redeemed us from so that we no longer will tolerate the things of this world. If Jesus redeemed us from the curses, then we should not entertain living with them.

***Galatians 3:14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***

The apostle Paul tells us here why God redeemed us from under the law and it was so that the blessings of Abraham would come to us and the door of salvation would open to Gentiles also.

This says we **receive** the promise of the spirit, and it is through faith. Jew or Gentile, salvation comes through faith. The enemy will always attack the **gift** of righteousness and try to make us earn it; which we never can.

The word receive in Greek is lambanō and means to take what is one's own or claim. Righteousness or right standing with God is ours and belongs to anyone who has put faith in Christ and is the position we have that allows Grace to reign through.

Religion is similar to a mouse in a wheel. The mouse puts in effort and work only to end up in the same place they began. It is a cycle with no progress.

***Galatians 3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.***

The covenant that was given was by God that man would be justified by faith was what God established from the beginning and it cannot be added to or taken away (Eph 1:4).

In the world's system of agreement or covenant the conditions are within that agreement and once they are final that is it. God's way of man being in right standing with Him has always been by faith and not works. The covenant of grace that we are now in is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant.

***Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "and to your seed," who is Christ.***

The word Seed here is capitalized and it is for an important reason. The promise was not spoken the Abrahams seed meaning his natural descendants but the promise was made to Jesus. Paul was dealing with the legalistic Jews of his day that thought that justification came through bloodline or lineage but it came through being born of the Seed Jesus. When we are born again, we are born of incorruptible seed and become identical Jesus (1 Pet 1:23). This can only be understood by getting a revelation of spirit, soul, and body.

Through the covenant of grace, God removes us from the center of the equation. God is in covenant with Jesus not us, we simply get in on the covenant once we believe on Jesus. This is good news that we are not the center of the covenant because that means we cannot mess it up.

***Galatians 3:17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.***

Abraham was credited righteousness 430 years before the law was given. Justification could not have come through the law because he was justified well before God ever gave the law. The first 2,000 years was a dispensation of grace and God was not imputing sin on man (Rom5:13). The law came in for a particular purpose for a particular time but it did not do away with God's means of justification by faith.

If the Mosaic covenant could make one in right standing with God, then why was there need for another covenant? For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second (Heb 8:7).

***Galatian 3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.***

Either we will live by the law or by faith but it cannot be both (Rom 11:6). The law will always focus on man's outward man and say do. Faith will focus on the inner man and say done. The law is about behavior, grace is about believing. The emphasis on the law always goes back to you, when the emphasis on grace always points to Him. The law focuses on the flesh, grace focuses on the spirit.

Much of the church is passing out cocktails on Sundays. A cocktail is a mixture of a substance and much of the church today is providing a mixture of legalism and grace and wondering why their members are not sober and unstable in all their ways.

***Galatians 3:19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.***

Paul had just finished speaking of how no man is justified by the law and that it is through faith, so a normal question would be why did God give the law then if it wasn't for justification? This verse tells us because sin had gotten so bad and man was deceived into thinking they were good enough to be right with God because they were comparing themselves among themselves and thought well, I haven't killed anyone so I must be good enough but the problem is if we do not live a perfect life then we break the entire law (Jam 2:10, Gal 3:10).

The law came (meaning it was not God's initial way of dealing with man) to keep man from thinking they could save themselves. It exposed the sin nature that was already present, so the law is not bad (Rom 7:12, 1 Tim 1:8) but it was man's improper **use** of the law that was bad. Paul said he would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law and that in the law is the

knowledge of sin (Rom 7:7, 3:20). When the law came, we can now see that we are not good enough and that puts us in a position to accept Jesus. No one feels they need a savior if they do not recognize their need to be saved.

A razor is not bad in itself and its intended purpose is to shave and reduce hair length. If a person however, uses a razor to eat with it, it will cut you up and its overall purpose has been abused. Likewise, the law is not bad but if one uses it unlawfully it can cut you up.

This verse also says until. The law was temporary until Jesus would come and when someone recognizes their need for a savior and they come to Jesus, the law has served its purpose and it not for a righteous man (1 Tim 1:8-9). Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Rom 10:4).

**Galatians 3:20 *Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.***

Mediator in Greek is mesites and means a reconciler or one who intervenes between two. It also means to ratify a covenant.

A mediator is someone who stands between two parties with the goal of bringing the two back into harmony, making peace, or to make the two friendly again. In the Old covenant Moses stood between God and man. Under the New Covenant the only mediator between God and man is Jesus (1 Tim 2:5).

**Galatians 3:21 *Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.***

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, in as much as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises (Heb 8:6). A better covenant came because the law only revealed our imperfection but it could never make us perfect. If righteousness could have been obtained through the law, there would have been no need for another covenant. The covenant we are in is better in every way.

If a person has keys to a house and then moves into a brand new home, they can no longer use the keys they once used to get in the new house. They will become extremely frustrated trying to put the key in a whole that does not fit. Access to the Father comes through Jesus (Eph 3:12). If we try to come through our own self effort, we will get frustrated similar to using an old key at a new house.

**Galatians 3:22 *But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.***

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:10) and were all once driven by our sin nature as children of the devil (Eph 2:1-3). The promise is given not to those who work hard and focus on their good acts to please God, rather to those who believe.



Obedience is the New Covenant is right believing; it is the obedience of faith. We did not get voted into the kingdom and we cannot get voted out.

In High School students work hard and enroll in athletics in order to achieve patches to place on their letterman jacket. These jackets were used as a trophy in sense to show how accomplished the athlete was. This is what many believers are doing today. We feel the harder we work or serve to please God then He will see all our patches and be pleased with us. You cannot earn enough patches on your jacket to earn God's favor, only Jesus could fill the jacket, Praise God!

***Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.***

Before Jesus came there was a different covenant that operated under a different system.

In the Old Testament the priest would intercede on behalf of the people for their sins. Under the new covenant of grace, Jesus intercedes on our behalf (Rom 8:34).

***Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.***

A tutor is also known as a school master and is speaking of someone in the Roman culture who had the responsibility of taking the children to and from school but their primary role was to enforce rules on the child until they were more mature. The law was similar to a schoolmaster in that when we were not born again, we were told what to do and where to go because we were spiritually dead and that was the only way we could understand not to do things was to enforce punishment for bad behavior. But now, we are born again with the spirit of God in us, we do not need to be led like a child because we understand right from wrong.

When a child is younger, they are told what to do and when to do it. Fear is the primary way to keep a child from doing things so a parent will tell a child if you do not brush your teeth, I will spank you. When a child gets older, the child understands the importance of brushing their teeth and the same action is performed but the motive is different. Initially the child is afraid that they will get a spanking but as they mature, they know it is healthy for their teeth and it is beneficial for them.

Growing up someone very close to me heard to never let a woman live with them before marriage. Out of fear of his parents taking away paying for his phone bill or not paying his rent, he did not let the woman he was with live with him. Later he learned the importance of not living with a woman before marriage and did not do it. The difference is that he was no longer in fear that his parents would punish him, but he did it because he understood it was harmful to him to live in sin.

This is how the law was; it was based off fear and if you do bad you get bad. It restrains people's actions but now under grace we do not need someone telling us what to do and where to go because our spirits are now alive and we have the Holy spirit to guide us. In the Old Testament everyone was spiritually dead. We do not go to church out of fear God will punish us, but we do

go to church because we understand it is beneficial to feeding our spiritual man. We do not give because we are in fear that God will take our job from us if I don't, but we do give now because we understand that is our new nature. Same actions but different motives.

The law was meant to bring us to Christ. We can never receive from God through self-effort. We must get to a place that we void any acts of trusting in our self not only to receive salvation but also to receive any other promise. The promise will come when we stop trying to do things that get God to move and start seeing He already moved, now I just receive.

The law was like a road sign to point us in the right direction; that right direction is to a person not a policy.

***Galatians 3:25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.***

Now that faith in Jesus has come, we are no longer under the law being governed by rules and regulations to restrain us. We have a new nature (our spirit man) that is identical to God and wants to live right (Rom 6:2).

A believer is born free. This means a believer is free from rules and regulations and do's and don't.

***Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.***

Anyone who has put faith in Jesus is now born again and is a child of God (John 1:12). As many as believe he gave the right to be called children of God. This verse says through faith in Jesus, not trusting in our own holiness.

Old Testament saints were servants; we are sons. The moment we believed on Jesus, God became our Father. The Greek word for Father is *patēr* and means parent. This Greek word for Father indicates a radical truth that takes place when we get born again. It implies one who has infused his own spirit into others and the originator and transmitter of anything. We have been adopted by God and now possess His very nature (Eph 1:5, John 1:13).

***Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***

The Greek word for baptized is *baptizō* and means to cleanse by dipping or submerging. It also implies one who has been immersed into something. We are cleansed and made righteous by the blood of Jesus and are not partially put into Christ; we have been immersed into Him.

Paul is confirming that justification by faith is the only way to be in right standing with God. When we identify with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection we now receive newness of life (Rom 6:4) and are free from the old man and guardianship that the law once had us under.

***Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***

The only thing that counts is the new creation in Christ (Gal 6:15). None of the external's matter in Gods kingdom, it is faith in Jesus and all become new creatures in Christ and are accepted by God (2 Cor 5:17).

Jesus came to remove the dividing wall that stood between the Jews and the Gentiles to remove the distinction between the two groups. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace (Eph 2:14-15).

***Galatians 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

This verse is linked to the point Paul was making throughout this book but is specially tied to verse sixteen of this chapter. The promises were spoken to Abraham and his Seed; Jesus. If we have now accepted Jesus and He now lives in us, then the promises are joined to us as well. Since we belong to Jesus, we are now Abraham's descendants and are heirs according to the promise and receive the blessing of Abraham not because we trust in our own goodness but through putting faith in Jesus.

The Greek word for heir is klēronomos and means one who has acquired or obtained the portion allotted to him. We do not receive an inheritance when we die, we receive an inheritance when someone else dies.