

- I) V1-5 INTRO: O **foolish** Galatians. Who has **bewitched** you that you should not obey
The Galatians had the message of the gospel clearly presented to them
Paul says Christ was **clearly portrayed** among them as **crucified**
IN OTHER WORDS
- II) He had preached the message clearly, plainly, and understandably
There was nothing added, nor subtracted from the gospel message
- III) Jesus was presented as the crucified Savior in an unmistakable way
This is like what he told the Corinthians
1 Co 15:3-4 what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that **He was buried**, that **He was raised on the third day according** to the Scriptures
ESSENTIAL
- IV) Paul had preached the message of salvation through faith in Jesus to them
First: He would have taught them that humanity rebelled against God
Ro 3:23 **All have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God
Ro 5:12 through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned
SECOND
- V) They were taught that the wages and penalty of sin was death and judgment
Heb 9:27 It is appointed for men to die once but after this the judgment
THIRD
- VI) They also clearly heard that God loved the world and gave His Son to atone
Ro 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us in that, while still sinners, Christ died for us (Jn 3:16)
FINALLY
- VII) They knew Jesus was crucified, that He died, and that He was resurrected
They also had heard that salvation was a gift offered to those who believed
Eph 2:8-9 For it is by **grace** you have been saved, **through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God**—not by works, so that no one can boast
- VIII) This is what he would mean by saying Christ was clearly portrayed to them
They had **clearly seen** the meaning of the cross; they understood the gospel
YET
- IX) They were moving themselves away from the truth they had embraced
Gal 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in **the grace of Christ** to a different gospel

I) Some were failing to truly listen to the truth of Jesus, and were moving away
They heard the message but did not embrace it, completely
Heb 4:2 The word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

II) They did not mix (combine) the word of the gospel with faith
Hearing the good news is not beneficial to the one hearing, if not acted upon

THIS IS WHY

III) Jesus spoke to His hearers and warned them to listen closely to what He said
He encouraged them to listen carefully, and to do so with faith and discernment
Lu 8:18 Therefore take heed **how** you hear.

Mk 4:24 Then He said to them, "Take heed **what** you hear.

THE FACT IS

IV) No ritualism, legalism, or rules can do more for man than Jesus did on the Cross
His death was a one-time event, with continuing effects into the future

1 Pe 3:18 **Christ died for sins once for all**, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God

WHAT HAD HAPPENED

V) They had stopped believing and applying basic gospel truths
By neglecting their foundations, they had compromised the gospel of grace
By trusting in the law to **improve themselves**, instead of resting in grace

APPLICATION

VI) This happens to new believers quite often
They receive grace to be saved, but begin to see weaknesses in their flesh
They read the bible or hear a study and are convicted! I don't do that!

ON TOP OF THIS

VII) They may also have older believers who encourage them to live better lives
When they struggle to do so, they fail and become guilty

VIII) In frustration, they go about improving themselves and abandon grace
This opens them up to preachers of legalism: they will try harder and follow rules

IX) V1 So Paul says O foolish Galatians Who has bewitched you

Foolish: Not understanding, unwise, mentally lazy, or careless

Bewitched: Overpower; cast a spell on you; enchanted and mislead you

X) You are foolish because you have been taught yet you have been deceived

- I) **His question:** Who has hoodwinked you?
The answer: The false teachers who crept in to bring you into bondage (2:4)
- II) V2 This only I want to learn from you. Did you **receive the Spirit** by the works of the
Receive: To take, lay hold upon, or appropriate for oneself
HIS QUESTION
- III) Did you obey the law to receive the Spirit and gifts, or believe in order to receive?
Just how is salvation experienced: by works, or by faith and grace?
- IV) The answer is simple: it is the result of faith in Jesus
Salvation and gifts come by grace through faith, not by works of the law
KEY
- V) This is the heart of the problem
They are being told to do certain **religious things** to experience God
- VI) **Today** it's knock-on doors, attend every service, follow traditions, cover tattoos
You have to wear a suit or nice dress in church, give generously, cut your hair
To be filled you have to beg God and kneel on a bench, pleading with Him
THE FRUIT OF THIS
- VII) You **work** for salvation, and you **work** for the power of the Spirit
Jesus did not teach this: He taught that this was done by God's grace
Lu 11:11-13 If **a son** asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts **to your children**, how much more will your heavenly Father **give** the Holy Spirit to those **who ask** Him!"
- VIII) **One thing is needed:** Faith in the promise that prompts obedience to the command
It isn't a request **driven** by an act of **outward obedience** (works)
It is a hunger to receive what God has promised to give: a faith filled drive
DEVELOP
- IX) The Galatians were Gentiles and may not have been thoroughly taught the OT
God had given a promise through Isaiah
Is 44:3 **I will** pour water on the thirsty land, and currents on the dry ground. **I will** pour out My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring
NOTICE
- X) I will **pour water** on him who is thirsty and floods **on the dry ground**

I) **I will** pour out water **on dry ground**

Much of Israel is dry ground: the wilderness is very dry

THE PROMISE

II) In the midst of dryness, I will give you water to satisfy your thirst

What is required is simply thirst, for God

Ps 63:1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek You; I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You, in a dry and parched land **where there is no water.**

CONTINUE

III) This reminds me of what Jesus told the woman of Samaria, **at the well**

Jn 4:13-14 Jesus said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water **that I shall give him** will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.

IV) God promises to satisfy our deepest spiritual longing, **through His grace**

He desires to fill us with His Holy Spirit

Jn 7:38-39 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those **believing in Him** would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

V) The water isn't for us to hoard for ourselves so we can elevate our own reputation

It is not for us to sell to other people, or make it difficult for them to have

It is given to us to pour out on other thirsty people

VI) Jesus spoke of us as a **fountain** of water as well **as rivers** of **living water**

Living water is basically water that you can drink

VII) **Living water** must flow to be useful: If it remains without an outlet, it stagnates

Water that is simply forming pools becomes the home of mosquitoes

VIII) Jesus intended the gospel to be taken throughout the world

Jesus told His men to preach repentance and remission of sins to all nations

IX) Their mission was to begin in Jerusalem and to reach the world

For His people to succeed, He promised to supply the power by His Spirit

Lu 24:49 (He said) Behold, **I send the Promise** of My Father upon you; but tarry (remain) in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued (clothed) with power from on high

- I) I will send the power of the Spirit that has been promised by the Father
Joel 2:28-29 And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. And also on My menservants, and on My maidservants **I will pour out my Spirit** in those days
- II) This pouring out of His Spirit took place on the Day of Pentecost
The 120 were in an upper room when the HS fell upon them, baptizing them
They stepped outside and began speaking in tongues
- III) There were people present, from 16 nations and regions hearing what was said
Some mocked, but Peter explained what had happened
Ac 2:16 This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel
- IV) This is the pattern that is found throughout the Book of Acts
God's word is proclaimed, and the Holy Spirit fell upon those believing
Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria (Ac 8) and Ac 10 (Cornelius: uttermost parts)
- V) God had also worked amongst the Galatians, in ancient Turkey
He still works in us, if we are open, hungry for Him, and ask in faith
PAUL'S QUESTIONS
- VI) V3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit are you now being **made perfect**
Jesus said He would give the Spirit to those who asked (Lu 11:13)
- VII) Can you by your own works gain more than God gives you by His Spirit?
Are you completing God's work **for Him** by trying to keep the Law of Moses?
- VIII) V4 Have you suffered so many things in vain--**if indeed it was in vain?**
You have gone through afflictions and persecution
You have preached a gospel that resulted in rejection and now are abandoning it!
- IX) Can't you see what has happened is worthless if you have not embraced Grace?
I cannot yet bring myself to believe that it was in vain
I will not give up hope that you are experiencing an attack you will recover from
- X) V5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you
Works miracles among you speaks of God implanting His power in them

- I) Paul appeals to their past experiences with God, and where they were now
Do you not remember the joy you had when you came to faith in Jesus?
What has happened to you? What is missing? How did you get here?
QUESTION
- II) Is God honoring the Law when He performs works among you?
Did God baptize people in the Spirit, or work miracles when the Law was preached
Is He not demonstrating grace when He performs these works? **It is all Grace**
- III) V6-9 As Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness
You are being deceived into believing righteousness comes by the Law of Moses
- IV) Let me take you to how God worked, **before the Law** was given to Israel
Let me begin with Father Abraham, and how he was saved
- V) Salvation has always been granted on the basis of personal faith
The OT saints were saved through faith, **not** by observing rituals and traditions
- VI) They were not sufficient to save, but produced conditions to exercise faith
These requirements were preparing the people for coming of Messiah
Col. 2:16-17 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or
with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are
a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.
UNDOUBTEDLY
- VII) The Judaizers have used the OT to convince the Galatians to hold fast to Law
Paul will now prove to them that people have always been saved by faith in God
He begins by pointing them back to the Father of the Jewish Nation: Abraham
REVIEW
- VIII) God had called Abraham out of ancient Mesopotamia (Iraq)
God promised to bless Abraham and to be with him in a special way
Gen 12:1-3 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and
your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great
nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will
bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on
earth will be blessed through you."
- IX) Part of the covenant between God and Abraham included circumcision (Gen 17:10)
The cutting away of the foreskin pictured cutting away of sin from the heart:

- I) Sin is passed on from generation to generation, and a clean break must be made
The Judaizers were stating that circumcision was necessary to be saved

THEIR THOUGHT

- II) If Abraham received the covenant of circumcision, and as a result, God's blessings, then ought not Gentiles also receive circumcision, to be part of God's promises to Abraham:

THE ANSWER IS NO

- III) It is faith that saved Abraham, not the rite of Circumcision

Ro 4:9-11 Is this blessedness only for **the circumcised**, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had **by faith** while he was still **uncircumcised**. So then, he is the father of **all who believe** but **have not been circumcised**, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.

- IV) The Judaizers have been teaching that circumcision is required to be saved
This is not true: To be saved requires faith in Christ to be inwardly cleansed
Col. 2:11 In him you **were also circumcised**, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ

- V) V7 Therefore know that **only those who are of faith** are sons of Abraham
Circumcision does not save you: faith in Jesus does

- VI) V8-9 And the scripture foreseeing that God would justify the nations by faith
Salvation by faith was foreshadowed by how God saved Abraham
He delivered him from idolatry, and brought him into a relationship with Himself

- VII) V8 He did the same thing for the Gentiles: they were saved by faith
By saving Abraham by faith God showed He would save Gentiles the same way

- VIII) V9 So then those **who are of faith** are blessed with believing Abraham
As Abraham was blessed with salvation, even so his descendants will be blessed

- IX) V10-12 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse
If you are trusting the law for salvation, you must keep its every command

- I) The problem is: no one can truly keep every element of the law, perfectly
Why? Because to violate one law is to break the entire law
Jas 2:10-11 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For He who said You shall not commit adultery also said You shall not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder you have become a lawbreaker
- II) This places you under a God's condemnation because you cannot keep them
Dt 27:26 Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out.
HIS POINT
- III) If you are going to live by the law, you must obey its every point
He wants them to see that they cannot be justified by the law
- IV) V11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God **is evident**
Under these kinds of conditions it should be obvious: we need help!
- V) The words **in the sight of God** speaks of standing before His judgment seat
No one standing before Him can claim to be perfect, though some think they are
Ro 3:19 We know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held **accountable to God**
- VI) V11 Since we cannot be perfect, we need someone to save us
This is what Jesus did on the cross, and this is why we have faith in Him
1 Jn 5:4 Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.
- VII) V12 Yet the law **is not of faith** (in Jesus), but everyone **who does them** shall live by
The law has rules and regulations that require **strict obedience**
In and of itself, it does not specifically command faith in Jesus, but prepares us
- VIII) The Law pointed to Messiah, but is fulfilled by the One **who kept it perfectly**
1 Jn 3:5 But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins.
And in Him is no sin
If you rely on the law for salvation, you must perfectly follow every command
- IX) V13 **Christ has redeemed** us from the curse of the law having become a curse for

- I) **Redeemed:** Buying a slave's freedom
Exegorases: Rescued from loss; purchased; ransomed
Agora is marketplace: this speaks of purchasing **out of** the marketplace
- II) Jesus said Whoever commits sin is the servant of sin (Jn 8:34)
Redemption is the picture of a slave being sold in a marketplace
- III) The One who purchased the slave is Jesus, and the price was His blood
Eph 1:7 In Him we have **redemption** through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
- IV) Jesus **redeemed** us from the curse of the law: the punishment for failing to keep it
The punishment due is death: Ro 6:23
HE PURCHASED US WHEN HE DIED FOR US
- V) V13 Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree
Jesus died on a cross (pictured as a tree) taking our condemnation
- VI) A criminal who was executed (usually by stoning) would be tied to a post, and would hang until sunset as an open expression of rejection by God
1 Pe 2:24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His stripes you have been healed.
- VII) V14 That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus
The curse is lifted by our placing faith in Jesus, who fulfilled God's demands
THE EFFECT
- VIII) We join in the family of Abraham, the family of the redeemed, through Jesus
- IX) That we might receive **the promise** of the Spirit **through faith**
The Galatians did not receive the promise of the Spirit through the Law
They received the promise through faith
- X) The HS comes and dwells in us as we trust in Jesus **through faith**
Don't believe the false teachers; Works do not save you, faith in Jesus does
Eph 1:13 You also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the **promised Holy Spirit**