

“BELIEVE & BE BLESSED!”

Galatians Chapter 3

I) DON'T BE FOOLISH! (v1-5)

(v1-2) The word *foolish* (Grk. – *anoetoi*, *senseless*); Paul is saying these Galatian Christians are “*spiritual dull.*” Paul says they’ve been “*bewitched,*” that is “*to cast a spell on someone, to fascinate them;*” whereas, *they should not obey the truth.*

Paul brings home to their hearts two elements of **TRUTH** that we must never forget: (1) **JESUS CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED FOR US!** Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:23-24, “*We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*” (2) **THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES INTO OUR LIVES THROUGH FAITH! (Not by the Law!)** (John ch. 3:1-16; Acts Ch. 2; Ephesians 2:8-9)

(v3-5) Let’s experience the miracles, the faith, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the suffering in Acts chapter 14.

II) BELIEVE & BE BLESSED! (v6-9)

(v6-9) Abraham “*believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” –

The word **BELIEVE** is *pisteuo* (Grk.); which is *to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust.* Let’s look to history: **Genesis chapter 15:1-6** (imputation – “*to put to one’s account*” (Rom. 4:11, 22-24)); **Genesis 12:3; 17:1-8** (culmination – *Abrahamic Covenant*); **Hebrews 11:8-19** (destination – “*heaven*”). *Abraham* was known as the “*friend of God*” (James 2:21-24).

III) CHOOSE THE CURSE OR CHRIST! (v10-18)

(v10-14) No one can fulfill all the law for salvation, thus the “*just shall live by faith.*” The law condemns us, whereas, *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law so that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

(v15-18) Paul declares that the promise of justification by faith was given to Abraham and to his Seed, “*And to your Seed,*” *who is Christ.* Whereas, the law is given 430 years later, meaning that the law was not a means of salvation, but faith in God, in His promise, His Son who brings salvation!

IV) BELIEVE & RECEIVE! (v19-29)

(v19-25) C.I. Scofield writes in regards to *The Christian doctrine of the law:* (1) Law is in contrast with grace. Under the latter God bestows the righteousness which, under law, He demanded (Ex. 19:5; Jn. 1:17; Rom. 3:21; 10:3-10; 1 Cor. 1:30). (2) The law is, in itself, holy, just, good, and spiritual (Rom. 7:12-14). (3) Before the law the whole world is guilty, and the law is therefore of necessity a ministry of condemnation, death, and the divine curse (Rom. 3:19; 2 Cor. 3:7-9; Gal. 3:10). (4) Christ bore the curse of the law, and redeemed the believer both from the curse and from the law (Gal. 2:16; 3:2-3, 11-12). (5) The believer is both dead to the law and redeemed from it, so that he is “not under law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:14; 7:4; Gal. 2:29; 4:4-7; 1 Tim. 1:8-9). And (6) under the new covenant of grace the principle of obedience to the divine will is produced inwardly (Heb. 10:16). So far is the life of the believer from the anarchy of self-will that he “under law toward Christ” (1 Cor. 9:21), and the new “law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2; 2 Jn. 5) is his delight; whereas, through the indwelling Spirit, the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in him (Rom. 8:2-4; Gal. 5:16-18). The commandments are used in the distinctively Christian Scriptures as instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16-17; cp. Rom. 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 9:8-9; Eph. 6:1-3).

(v26-29) We are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, we can now put on Christ; we are all equal, and we all receive a glorious inheritance!