

Text: Gal. 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?”

Intro: The Greek word translated “**foolish**” is ἀνόητος *anoētos*; means their behavior is irrational, a word that suggests **the actions of one who can think but fails to use those powers of perception**. That is reflected in the last part of *v. 1* “Who has ***bewitched*** you **that you should not obey the truth...**” It is as though someone has cast a spell on them to make them believe what is contrary to the truth.

—**Is it faith or works?**

—How did you first receive the Spirit? “**By the hearing of faith**” (*v. 2*)

—Paul follows a rabbinical pattern of teaching using a series of questions; asking questions and answering by questions. (*v. 2; v. 3; v. 5*)

—Paul’s question regarding their “**receiving the Spirit**” refers to the Holy Spirit coming into their lives at salvation.

—He makes that clear in **Gal. 3:3** “Are you so foolish? **Having begun in the Spirit**, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”

—Righteousness with God is made possible by faith in Jesus Christ—**Romans 3:22** “even the righteousness of God, **through faith in Jesus Christ**, to all and on all who believe.”

—**Gal. 3:6** “just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

—Those who want to bring the Galatians back under the rules of the Law, argue the Law was given first and therefore it is the way to be made righteous before God.

—They fail to realize one very important truth, Abraham lived before the Law was given—**Gal. 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.”

—Paul argued that no one is “**justified**” by keeping the Law of the Old Testament—“**knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be**

justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” Gal. 2:16

—He now writes **Gal. 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.”**”; which is a quote of **Hab. 2:4** **“But the just shall live by his faith.”**

—The word **justified** means **“pronounced or treated as righteous.”**

—For a Christian, justification is the act of God not only forgiving the believer’s sins **but imputing to him the righteousness of Christ.**

—Justification is not earned through our own works; rather, we are covered by the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

—Even the faith to believe is a gift of God—“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (**Eph. 2:8–9**)

—**Titus 3:4–5** “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.**”

—Justification is a completed work of God, and it is instantaneous, as opposed to sanctification, which is an ongoing process of growth by which we become more Christlike (the act of **“being saved,”** cf. **1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23**).

—**Sanctification occurs after justification.**

—The writer of Hebrew says—**Heb. 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

—No one can please God by outward works, we can only please God by believing in Him and His provision for us through His Son Jesus.

—**Heb. 11:17–19** “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, **“In Isaac your seed shall be called,”** concluding

that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”

—**Gal. 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.”

—Paul uses this reference to the singular word “seed” from **Gen. 22:18** “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (Also **Gen 26:4; 28:14**)

—The singular word “seed” points to the single Person of Jesus Christ is Paul’s point.

—Through Israel the promises of salvation were given, but all of those promises pointed to the One Person Jesus—**Luke 24:27** “Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

—Why was the Law given?

—**Gal. 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.”

—The law laid down a right way to live for God (perfect standard) and made people aware when they were deviating from that perfect path.

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

—The Greek word translated “tutor” is παιδαγωγός paidagōgos which is the slave that was put in charge of the family sons, and oversaw everything they did; carefully guiding their behavior.

—All humanity was trapped hopelessly in sin—**Gal. 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.”

—**Gal. 3:25** “But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

—We have finally grown up and no longer under a tutor—*Gal. 3:26* “**For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**”

—What is the difference—*Gal. 3:27* “**For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**”

—There is a vertical change in relationship to God; but it is not automatic it only happens by faith in Jesus.

—We are “**baptized into Christ**” literally submersed in Christ (read *Rom. 6:2-5*).

—If you have faith in Jesus you are truly Abraham’s seed; better yet you are “**heirs according to the promise.**” (v. 29).

—*Gal. 3:16* “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made.”

—We tend to think of the promises as future, but one great promise is now—*Luke 24:49* “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

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