

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Galatians 3:1-14--October 29th, 2023

Sermon Recap:

Faith or Works

"O foolish Galatians!" Paul is passionately frustrated and concerned with the church of Galatia. Every aspect of his ministry to them had been focus on the crucified Christ. They knew the truth and, yet, false teachers has "bewitched" them to make emotional decisions to turn away from truth and back to the law.

I. Blessings in Faith (v.1-6)

Paul confronts them with a series of rhetorical questions with the hopes that they would recall how their faith began and return to that way of living.

a. Did the law give you the Holy Spirit?

- **No.** Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of Christ.

b. Did the law make you perfect?

- **No.** You go on just as you began – by relying on the grace of God and the help and power of His Spirit through faith alone.

c. Have you suffered in vain?

- "suffered" = "experienced. Have you experienced the blessings of the Spirit for nothing?

d. Are the Spirit and miracles needed for the law to save?

- They had seen miraculous signs performed among them. Were those necessary for the law to save? No. They validated the message of the apostles.

e. Did the law save Abraham?

- Genesis 15:6- Abraham was justified by his faith, not his works.

II. Cursed by the Law (v.7-14)

a. Break one, guilty of all...

- Deuteronomy 27:26

b. Habakkuk said...

- Habakkuk 2:4

c. Live by the law, die by the law

- Leviticus 18:5

d. Imputed Curse

- Deuteronomy 21:2

e. Imputed Blessing

- **v.14-** Christ redeemed us, he saved us, not only by taking on our curse and our death. But in return for our imputed curse he gave us the blessing of Abraham.

. Before the cross, salvation came by faith in the promise of the person and work of the coming Messiah to redeem God's people. And today, salvation comes by faith in the revelation of the person and work of the Messiah, Jesus Christ who has come to redeem his people.

Discussion Questions:

- What is Paul's tone in chapter three? Why is that?
- How many questions does Paul ask in verses 1-14? Why do you think he asks so many?
- Why does Paul immediately call to the Galatians' minds to the crucifixion of Jesus (3:1), in response to the false teaching they are hearing? What is it about the cross that is so central to the teaching of justification by faith alone?
- Why does Paul use Abraham as an example of justification by faith?
- How does Paul's teaching that the Spirit comes through "hearing with faith" impact the way we think about our lives as Christians?
- What does this passage, Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:19-23 say about reliance on the law? What is the only thing we can rely upon?
- What are the blessings of Christ's redemption for those who live by faith? How does this impact your life today and in the future?

Application:

- What issues, false teachings, or influences do you see "bewitching" the church today?
- How can you remind yourself and others to continue in the Christians life the same way you/they began--by faith?
- What hinders your walk in faith? What mesmerizes you?
- What areas of your life do you see how, though you "began by the Spirit," you now are "being perfected by the flesh"? (Galatians 3:3)
- How does the doctrine of justification by faith alone provide hope and encouragement today?
- How does it bring you comfort to know that peace with God requires faith alone? How can you remind yourself—and believers around you—to continue in the Christian life the same way we began the Christian life: by faith?

