

## ***Bewitched*** **Galatians 3:1-14**

**Read 3:1-14**

**Spurgeon** With very great enthusiasm the Galatians received the gospel when Paul preached it to them. They seem to have been a very warm-hearted but fickle people, & Paul found, to his great grief, that while he was away from them certain false teachers came in & turned them aside from the gospel that he had delivered to them. Paul does not compliment them on being a very “thoughtful,” “educated,” “cultured” people; he does not care an atom about that matter. Because they had forsaken the simple truth of the gospel, he says, “O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you?” Those are hard words, Paul! Why did he not say, “Who has led you forward into more advanced views?” No, he calls it witchery, the work of the devil, & it is nothing better. The wisdom of it is no better than the trickery of some old witch. If you take your eyes off Christ, it must be witchcraft that makes you do it. There is such glory, such beauty, such perfection, such wisdom, such divinity in Christ crucified that, if you turn from that sight to anything else—no matter how scientific & learned it may be—you are “foolish” indeed, & somebody has “bewitched you.”

Ch 3-4 deal w/ doctrine--Paul uses the OT to establish his teaching of justification by faith apart for law.

*1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?*

*O' foolish-exclamation*-expressing intense emotion-urgency & exasperation  
*'oh my'* Jesus Lk 24:25 Emmaus road *'O foolish men & slow of heart....* Paul is not insulting them but rebuking them. **Insults** will not bring people around to your side **or** get them to listen to you.

Rebuke is aimed toward actions, what they were doing w/ the Christian faith. *JB Phillips 'O you dear idiots of Galatia'* that is a stupid move...

*Foolish*--lacking in good sense, no insight or sound judgment, w/o discernment--unwise & silly—depending on natural ability-in their case laws to improve salvation--But only **dulls** Holy Spirits work & **cancel**s out grace.  
*Amplified "O you poor & silly & thoughtless & unreflecting & senseless Galatians!" New English Bible "You stupid Galatians."*

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Smart people w/ high IQ & w/o wisdom can make very poor decisions. No powers of perception due to a moral defect (*pride, ambition, jealousy, greed*)

*Bewitched*--to charm or fascinate--mislead by flattery or false promises, or occult powers—the use of feeling over *fact*, emotion over *clear judgment*--to cast a spell, put into a demonic fog.

Wm Barclay translated "*who has put the evil eye on you.*" *Superstitious Greeks* feared having spells put on them by the evil eye. Letters sent often would end w/ '*Above all I pray that you may be in health unharmed by the evil eye & faring prosperously.*' *Today in Africa and Mid-East-pictures*

Martin Luther **Although I am a doctor of divinity, & have preached Christ & fought His battles for a long time, I know from personal experience how difficult it is to hold fast to the truth. I cannot always shake off Satan. I cannot always apprehend Christ as the Scriptures portray Him. Sometimes the devil distorts Christ to my vision. But thanks be to God, who keeps us in His Word, in faith, & in prayer.**

*Publicly portrayed* - *prographo* - found in early secular documents where a father posted a proclamation that he would no longer be responsible for his son's debts. For us, the Father has posted a proclamation that He has paid our debt by His son Jesus Christ death on the cross.

*Before whose eyes*-So graphic was Paul's portrayal of the crucifixion their minds were transported as if there at the event--*Easter-pornographic*.

***2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?***

Rhetorical questions to produce an effect--make a statement--reveal the truth of the issue. **No** we did not receive Spirit by works of the law but **Yes** by hearing w/ faith. **Yes** we began by the Holy Spirit **No** we can't, now, be perfected by the flesh (*me/will power*) Law demands *works*-grace requires *faith*

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*Perfected epiteleio* – Bringing fully & complete maturity in Christ-only God can do-*Phil 1:6 I am certain that God, who began the good work w/in you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. NLT*

We don't fill ourselves, Holy Spirit fills us--He reveals Jesus to us '*when Holy Spirit comes He will testify of me*'. And He does. Are we now to help the Holy Spirit to do His work in our lives? **Absolutely not!**

Mans religion says yes for justification & sanctification---secular man taking Gods place-Climate, abortion, gender, evolution—**religion following culture**.

Man helping God create more stars and planets & flinging them into galaxies—Xmas name a star-God already has—Insult to God

**John Stott** "The law requires works of human achievement; the gospel requires faith in Christ's achievement. The law makes demands & bids us obey; the gospel brings promises & bids us believe. So the law & the gospel are contrary to one another. They are not two aspects of the same thing, or interpretations of the same Christianity. At least in the sphere of justification, Luther says, '**the establishing of the law is the abolishing of the Gospel**'.

The Law said, "Do!" Grace says, "Done!" The Law said, "Try!" Grace says, "Trust!" The Law says, "Behave!" Grace says, "Believe!" Law points to the commandments; grace points to the Jesus.

*4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5 Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?*

No record in scripture of their suffering or persecution—NEB translates it "**Have all your great experiences been in vain..?**" Yes if you buy into works righteousness—go from grace to some form of legalism lose joy turn hard

**Spurgeon-did you suffer so many things--**You had to struggle and endure much contention within your own spirit to get upon the ground of faith at all. Are you going to throw all that away? Is all the experience of your past life to go for nothing, and are you now going to begin on a lower and baser platform?

Or if persecuted for faith by carnal people or religionist-legalist-zealots  
Natural man w/ god complex will persecute believer. **Ishmael & Isaac 4:29**

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*When in the furnace of affliction our Father watches the clock & His hand is on the temperature-control---thermostat.*

Again rhetorical, no miracle has ever come by works of the flesh & no one was ever filled by the Holy Spirit by psyching themselves up or—beating on chest, repeating mantra, priming the pump. John the Baptist *'I baptize in water one coming after me & He will baptize you w/ Holy Spirit and fire. Mat 3:11*

*God will not move over for anyone & give them credit for what He does. To God be the glory great things He has done.*

**A W Tozer** The problem is not to persuade God to fill us, but to want God sufficiently to permit Him to do so. The average Christian is so cold and so contented with his wretched condition that there is no vacuum of desire into which the blessed Spirit can rush in satisfying fullness.

*6 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.*

Abraham the example of righteousness by faith—

Look to the heavens and count stars Gen 15:5 if you are able, so shall descendants be....:6 Abraham believed & counted as righteousness. :12 when sun was going down—daytime when Abraham looked in faith knew stars there—He didn't work for **righteousness** but listened, looked & believed.

Sons of Abraham are of faith not ritual--**Rom 2:28,29** And all who believe Jew and Gentile stand on same ground of faith, Abraham the example.

Vines Grk for believer is **pisteus** 1-a firm conviction producing full acknowledgment of God's revelation of Truth 2-a personal surrender to that Truth 3- a life lived consistent w/ that surrender.

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*10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM." 11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." 12 However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM." 13 Christ 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" 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Those of the law are cursed because can't keep it. Law can't improve work of Christ-- Like a most sought after contractor building your house--you set him aside & bring a colony of ants to the project to help finish the job.

Legalism is a work of the flesh & incompatible w/ work of Christ & only brings a curse--**out of favor w/ God** when seeking to be justified.

Law is not of faith – faith looks to God, law looks at me. ***Driving happy time w/ Lord, singing praises then blue light in rearview***---if live life by law all I'm thinking is how am I doing..**The more rigid & harsh the more paranoid – tight rope--walk wall 6" up or 60 feet up**

Jesus took our curse of broken law & penalty of criminal Dt 21:23 hang on a tree—we all deserve to be hung on tree because we all sin & under curse for breaking law—**wanted poster-bank robber-stole bubble gum-speed limit.**

But Jesus took our place-redeemed us--**exagorazo** to pay the purchase price—**agora**-market place, public buying of slaves—**ek** out of. So Jesus paid the price to buy us out of the market place of sin-**Redemption**

Our breaking of law imputed to Christ, He paid for our debt—***He paid a dept He did no owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.***