

August 21,2022

**Did you receive the Holy Spirit by observing the law?**

**Galatians 3: 1-14 (vv. 3-5)**

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### I. Introduction/Biblical Background

Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians to counter the message of the missionaries who visited Galatia after he left. These missionaries taught that gentiles must follow parts of the Jewish law in order to be saved. In particular these missionaries taught that Christian men had to accept the Jewish rite of circumcision.

Paul wrote to the Galatians to re-establish the truth of liberty by grace through faith, and to deny bondage to the law.

#### The council at Jerusalem Acts 15:1-30

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers, "unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved. Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently.

### II. The Lesson/Did you receive the Holy Spirit by observing the law?

#### 3:1,2 Who has bewitched you?

All we need is Jesus. Paul explained to very clearly what Jesus did for us on the cross. Who has tricked you? Did you receive the spirit by keeping all the rules of the law and because you were so perfect by obeying the law. How are you trying to perfect yourself? Are you trying to complete yourself, other than perfecting yourself in Jesus? When Jesus died on the cross, He said it is finished, or it has been perfected. No, all we need to do is to except what was done, as true by our faith in Jesus. When we try to be more perfect by our works to be saved or excepted, we are overdoing it.

If we are saved by works, Jesus crucified is all in vain. (Eph. 2:8,9)

The Antioch church was predominantly Gentiles  
They were called foolish or senseless because:

1. They allowed another to teach them against the truth.
2. They allowed Mosaic adherence to the law to creep back into the church.
3. They thought in order to be saved, they had to have both faith in Christ and observe the law.

### 3:3-5 Are you being righteous by the law ?

Paul takes them back to the beginning of their salvation, when they first believed in Christ, and through their faith in Christ, were accounted righteous before God, before they done any works at all. God accounted them righteous. They started establishing all sorts of rules to live by to be righteous. We also are prone to do the same things today in some ways.

For example, now if I would read ten chapters of the bible every day, and read a morning devotional, and spend a half hour praying, Surely I would be more righteous than someone who didn't do that.

Right?

What are some other examples?

### 3:6-9 Consider Abraham

Abraham believed God, so it was credited to him as righteousness, not that he was righteous, he was declared as righteous .

1. Paul uses Abraham as an example, not Moses.
2. The Jews invested in the law through Moses.
3. Paul goes 430 years before Moses and deals with father Abraham. Abraham was the first example of faith, all those after him is his sons.

Now it is true that Abraham's belief in God was manifested by his obedience to God. It isn't just saying, well I believe in Jesus, it's more than just an assent to the truth. If I indeed believe, my belief will be demonstrated by my actions. So Abraham's action confirmed what he believed. His actions were on the basis of

what he believed. Abraham believed God and it was the belief that accounted for righteousness, not his action, but belief that prompts the action. ( James 2:26 )

So Abraham was the father, not of the physical race, but the spiritual race, not of the physical seed, but of the spiritual seed.

Abraham the Father of those who believe. You may be a physical descendant of Abraham, but if you don't believe, you are not really a descendant of Abraham in the spiritual sense.

3:10-12 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse

If you are relying on what you do, you are under a curse. Scripture of the old testament say; if you don't live by the law , then you are under a curse.( Deut. 27:26 )

Paul quotes scripture; No one can live by the law.no one is justified before God by the law. The righteous shall live by faith.

The Old Testament Law says ; if you break one law, you are under a curse. No one is considered righteous under the law. The law pointed out what was sin. It was temporary. Jesus is the permanent answer. Jesus removed the law that showed that we are guilty, Jesus removed guilt. The law cleanses the outer flesh, Jesus cleanses the mind of dead works, and empowers us to live a holy and clean life. The just shall live by faith.

3:13,14 Christ became a curse for us all

People believed if you were hung on a tree for your sin, you were under the curse of God. Jesus became a curse by allowing himself to be a curse by hanging on a tree for our sins.

He wasn't a curse, he became a curse for us. We are Redeemed by Jesus in order that blessings given to Abraham may come to the gentiles through Jesus so that by faith we might receive the promise of the spirit. (Deut. 21:23)

### The blessings of Abraham

The blessings of Abraham come to the gentiles through Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith.

1. God gave Abraham a blessing.
2. God gave Abraham a covenant. Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

### III. Conclusion

If you could become righteous by keeping a set of rules, then Jesus would not have to die for us. The fact that he did die, declares that no man can be righteous by his own works. God has established a basis for righteousness, but it is not upon works; it is not upon obedience to the law, but it is upon our faith in Jesus Christ.

If we are saved by works, then Jesus crucified is all in vain.