

## Galatians 3:1–14

64

### Galatians 3:1–14

1. How did someone “bewitch” or cast a spell upon the Galatians? (3:1) Who did this?
  - “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you...” Paul’s question is rhetorical, he refers to the sect of the Circumcision (Acts 15:5; Galatians 2:12; Philippians 3:2; Titus 1:10).
  - “... bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...” The Judaizer’s put the Galatians under a spell through: [1] false claims (1:1; 3:5), [2] intimidation (2:3, 12; 6:12), [3] deceit (2:4), [4] flattery (4:17), [5] misrepresentation (5:13); [6] strife (5:15; 6:9); [7] boasting (6:3, 13).

65

## Galatians 3:1–14

2. How had Christ been “evidently set forth as crucified among you”?
- “Before whose eyes ...” the eyes of the mind (*cf.* Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:18; 1 John 2:11). Paul is referring to his preaching of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 2:1–2). He taught them Jesus was crucified, but his view is upon purpose & effect of that death (Galatians 1:4; 2:20; 3:15–22; 6:14).
  - “Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth...” with respect to the context, the preaching of the Gospel was so clear, so vivid, so thoroughly done as to cause us to wonder how it is possible that you could not know Christ died for you.

66

## Galatians 3:1–14

3. How did these brethren “receive” the Spirit?
- “Received ye the Spirit...” To receive the Spirit is to be endowed with miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit (John 7:29; 20:22; Acts 2:33, 38; 8:15, 17, 19; 10:17; 19:2; Mark 16:17–20; Hebrews 2:1–4). Their reception of the Spirit came after their belief of the Gospel (*cf.* Acts 8:16).
  - “...by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” Paul challenges them to consider the divine authority, if any, attendant with this persuasion to which some now held. Paul wants to know which “gospel” came with the divine, heaven sent proof of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:12; Acts 2:4; 11:17; 15:7–9).

67

## Galatians 3:1–14

### 4. Who had worked miracles among the Galatians?

- “He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit...” The word “ministereth” means “to furnish, or fully supply” a thing. Paul had fully supplied them with the Holy Spirit (*cf.* 1 Corinthians 14:7–9; 2 Corinthians 12:11–13).
- “And worketh miracles among you...” Paul had worked miracles among them on the first journey: [1] Signs and wonders in Iconium (Acts 14:3); [2] Healed a cripple at Lystra (Acts 14:8–10); [3] Paul raised from the dead in Lystra after being stoned (Acts 14:19). Paul visited these churches at least three times (Acts 13–14; Acts 16:1–6; Acts 18:23).

68

## Galatians 3:1–14

### 5. Who are the true children of Abraham?

- “Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham...” Abraham is the Archetype of justification by grace through faith. His relationship to Jehovah as the “friend of God” devastates the position of the Circumcision.
- “So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham...” Paul affirms if any one is justified it is on the same grounds and conditions as Abraham was justified: [1] Abraham was justified without the Law (3:17–18); [2] Abraham was justified apart from circumcision (3:6; *cf.* Romans 4:10); [3] Abraham was justified by faith (3:6).

69

## Galatians 3:1–14

### 6. What is the curse mentioned in Galatians 3:10?

- “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse...” It is the curse, the condemnation and attendant punishment, that befalls those who violate the law (Deuteronomy 27:26; 28:15; Jeremiah 11:3; Nehemiah 9:29). Not just the curses which befell Israel, but the ultimate curse of separation from God (*cf.* Genesis 2:17; Isaiah 59:2; Ezekiel 18:1 *ff.*).

70

## Galatians 3:1–14

### 7. Why is it impossible to be justified by the Law?

- “Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them...” It is not the function of the Law to justify or acquit sinners. Law demands compliance; it condemns transgression.
- “No man is justified by the law in the sight of God...” This is the case because all men are guilty of sin. Paul had established this in Peter (Galatians 2:15–16; Romans 3:23). It is really not a point at issue, rather it is a reality that these Jews are not properly considering.
- “The law is not of faith...” It is performance or damnation.

71

## Galatians 3:1–14

### 8. Where else do we read “the just shall live by faith?”

- Romans 1:17
- Romans 4:3, 22–23
- Galatians 3:6, 11
- James 2:23
- Hebrews 10:38
- Habakkuk 2:4
- Gen 15:6

72

## Galatians 3:1–14

### 9. How did Christ become a curse for us?

- “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law...”  
Clearly Paul understands that we are the ones deserving the curse of the Law: “cursed is everyone...”
- “Christ...being made a curse for us.” Jesus dying on the cross of Calvary was the redemption (Galatians 4:5) or ransom paid for our deliverance (Matthew 20:28). This is propitiation (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10).
- “Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree ...” Jesus did not receive what we deserve (Romans 6:23), but He did not deserve what He received (1 Peter 3:18).

73

## Galatians 3:1–14

### 10. What is the “blessing of Abraham” in 3:14?

- “That the blessing of Abraham might come...” Paul is referring to the Genesis 12 and Genesis 15 “blessing” which Peter affirmed was the forgiveness of sins in Acts 3:26. This blessing could not come without the death of Jesus.
- “On the Gentiles through Jesus Christ.” Abraham and his seed would bless “the nations” or Gentiles. That blessing is through Jesus, not the Law.
- “That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Not a promise the Spirit made, but the Spirit as promised (**CONTEXT**).

74

The “430 Years After” in Galatians 3:17						
75	100	60	130	71	64	80
<b>ABRAHAM</b> Genesis 12:1-4	<b>ISAAC</b> Genesis 21:5	<b>JACOB</b> Genesis 25:26	<b>INTO EGYPT</b> Genesis 47:9	<b>JOSEPH</b> Genesis 41:46; 45:6; 50:26	<b>PHAROAH</b> Exodus 1:8; Galatians 3:17	<b>EXODUS</b> Exodus 7:7; Genesis 15:16
Actual Time Elapsed:	<b>25</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>430</b>
Time of Affliction:	<b>Isaac at age five (Genesis 21:8-10; Acts 7:6)</b>					<b>400</b>

75