

Believers Together

Discovering the Word Series – April 11, 2023

Faith or Observance of the Law—Galatians 3:1–14

Open It

1. If someone close to you displayed a lack of knowledge about a subject you knew well, what would you do about it?

Galatians 3:1–14 (ESV)

¹O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

²Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

³Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

⁴Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

⁵Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—

⁶just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

⁷Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

⁹So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

¹⁰For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

¹¹Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”

¹²But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

¹⁴so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Explore It

2. Why did Paul reprimand the Galatians? (3:1)
3. What contrasting question did Paul ask? (3:2)
4. Based on Paul’s second question to the Christians, how did he think the Galatians felt the Law could help them? (3:3)
5. Why did Paul ask the Galatians if their suffering had been for nothing? (3:4)
6. On what basis did the Holy Spirit perform miracles? (3:5)
7. How did Paul’s use of Abraham as an example of faith strike a blow to the champions of the Law? (3:6–8)
8. How did Paul link the past with the present? (3:9)

9. What is the curse of the law? (3:10)
10. How does a person become justified before God? (3:11)
11. Why is combining faith and Law impossible? (3:11–12)
12. How does Christ save people from the curse of the Law? (3:13)
13. Why is Christ's redemptive work effective for both Jews and Gentiles? (3:14)

Get It

14. In your view, what is the biggest difference between Law and faith?
15. What has Christ done for you?

Apply It

16. How can you help new Christians get a clear understanding of their position in Christ?