

## Pity the Fool

## Galatians 3.1-14



1515 - 32 yr old German Prof: Bible at Wittenburg Uni

In SPIRITUAL CRISIS - DEVOUT CATHOLIC MONK

No Peace, No Forgiveness - DESPITE Good MONKERY

“I was a good monk, if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery,  
it was I”  
Martin Luther

Young Brother Martin fully dedicated himself to monastic life, the effort to do good works to please God and to serve others through prayer for their souls. Yet peace with God escaped him. He devoted himself to fasts, flagellations, long hours in prayer and pilgrimages, and constant confession. The more he tried to do for God, it seemed, the more aware he became of his sinfulness.

It is an intolerable and horrible blasphemy to think up some work by which you presume to placate God, when you see that He cannot be placated except by this immense, infinite price, the death of the blood of the Son of God, one drop of which is more precious than all creation.  
Dr. Martin Luther

This doctrine of justification is a great doctrine to die by, but a lousy one to live with!  
Duke George of Saxony

COMFORT in DEATH / CHAOS in his State – People NO MORAL Restraint

Perhaps ONE Message to END Life / Other for the EXPERIENCE of LIFE?

THINKING Arouses STRONG Reaction: Paul SPLUTERS WITH INDIGNATION

vs. 1-3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Apprehension to Preach thru GALATIANS – Strong Words, Fighting Error  
 Prefer PEACE – Already BIG, SCARY guy here in SMALL ROOM  
 ZGC – Struggle to PAY BILLS – Hard to Draw Deep Pockets > Call them FOOLS!  
 THIS IS PAUL – I’m NOT calling Anyone a FOOL! Just Expository Preacher!  
 My JOB is FAITHFULLY Tell You what PAUL Said...but if SHOE FITS!!!  
 IF WE do NOT Continue in CHRIST our Savior & Lord > Miss 3 Impt THINGS:

## 1. Power of the Spirit

a. Jesus and the Spirit - Holy Spirit mentioned 18 times in Galatians

Jesus did NO MINISTRY on Earth without POWER of the Holy Spirit

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Acts 10.38

Jesus LAST NAME is not CHRIST – Christ is TITLE > Filled with Holy Spirit

Jesus PRESENT NOW with us through PRESENCE of the Holy Spirit

ONLY REAL PROOF of Jesus in Person’s Life is PRESENCE of HOLY SPIRIT

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. Romans 8.9

That is WHY Paul – On his Approach to Ephesus for M Work – Asked 1<sup>st</sup> he Saw:  
 Paul...came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, “Did  
 you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” Acts 19.1,2

2 Parents NEEDED bring CHILD into WORLD // Word & Spirit for New Birth

vs. 1,2,3,5 Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified... receive the Spirit...  
 begun by the Spirit... he who supplies the Spirit

Jesus describes the Spirit’s Work: “He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine  
 and declare it to you.” John 16.14

Cannot make NEAT, WATER-TIGHT Compartments of Work of TRIUNE God

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the ***Spirit of God dwells in you***. Anyone who does not ***have the Spirit of Christ*** does not belong to him. But if ***Christ is in you***, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If ***the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you***, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through ***his Spirit who dwells in you***. Romans 8.9-11

Galatians trying TRINITARIAN DISSECTION – Begin w/ Jesus / Finish with Self  
Jesus and Spirit AND the Father – INDIVISIBLE Team – ONE, HOLY, GOD

A church that does not have sound doctrine does not experience the true blessing of the Holy Spirit. The converse is equally true: a church without the Spirit is not as orthodox as it thinks it is. Philip Ryken

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith... Hebrews 12.2

ALPHA & OMEGA – Beginning and End – Jesus STARTS & FINISHES Faith

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Galatians 5.25

#### b. Word Alive

Saul of Tarsus was BIBLE Scholar – Memorized Huge Portions of Scripture

...as to the law, a Pharisee Philipians 3.5

As to Football Club – Barcelona / As for my UNI – OXFORD --- Enough Said!

GREAT MIND / KEEPER of TRADITIONS / LOYAL to RITUALS

Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 2 Corinthians 3.16

Jesus LIFTED VEIL from Paul's EYES – Man made ALIVE by Risen Christ

God...was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles Galatians 1.15,16

Paul PREACHER, PATRIARCH, and their FIRST PASTOR - He was MIDWIFE!

v. 1 It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

“publicly portrayed, or announced on a poster” / OPENLY PRESENTED

PERFECT TENSE = PAST Event that continues to be SIGNIFICANT in PRESENT

When I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2.1,2

Left GALATIA in Good Hands – Elders, Growing in Word, Secure in Christ

IN JESUS – You HEAR Word OF Jesus and RECEIVE the Holy Spirit

False Teacher > YOU STARTED Well, but you are NOT COMPLETE in Christ

When we hear that the Son of God, with all His blessings, is rejected and that His death is esteemed as nothing, what godly mind will not break out into indignation?

John Calvin

Paul is NOT AFRAID to Argue from EXPERIENCE – Unique Example vs 1-5

IF All we had is SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE – No ROCK to Build Upon

But if OBJECTIVE EVENTS are TRUE they will Transform our LIVES

So, Paul asks Galatians to REMEMBER Their OWN Experience of God’s Work

ALL Questions Same: How does Xtian get Holy Spirit? Answer: BY FAITH

We must not lose sight of the fact knowing God is an emotional relationship as well as an intellectual and volitional one, and could not indeed be a deep relationship between persons if it were not so. J.I. Packer

Friend M in KZ to UIGHUR Muslims – Invited him to their Islamic PRAYERS

God speaks ARABIC They Don’t – They MUMBLE Few Arabic Words Fearfully

He asked permission to Pray – SIMPLE, UIGHUR Language Prayer to Father God

REALITY of Truly KNOWING God – Speaking to Father – Drew them to ‘ISA

## 2. Proof from Scripture

Ch 3 & 4 – Some of STRONGEST WRITING in all of Paul’s 13 NT Letters

Seen RAPIER LOGIC in Debate, Argument in Synagogues on M Trips in ACTS

See Paul’s UNASSAILABLE LOGIC – for Glory of God and Good of His People

6 Different Arguments: God saves sinners thru Faith in Christ, Not by our Works

Personal Argument 3.1-5

Scriptural Argument 3.6-14

Logical Argument 3.15-29

Historical Argument 4.1-11

Sentimental Argument 4.12-18

Allegorical Argument 4.19-31

Christian Life COMMENCES by Faith and MUST CONTINUE by Faith

We never ADVANCE BEYOND the MESSAGE of the Cross and the Empty Tomb

False Teachers tried to COMMAND Authority of LAW > Paul says “Let’s Go!”

Want to go TOE to TOE with Law – I am PHARISEE, Student of GAMALIEL!

BUST Out the SACRED SCROLLS and Let’s See what they REALLY SAY!

a. Patriarch – False Teachers claimed ABE as Hero > But He is Father of Faithful

Abe was COUNTED Righteous – IMPUTED to Him – by FAITH in God

The promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. Romans 4.16

We NOW have PROMISE of Salvation FULFILLED in Christ

Abe LOOKED FORWARD in Hope / We look BACK in CERTAINTY

Abe did NOT have Jesus Christ on Cross – PLACARDED before his Eyes

Surprise! Surprise! FATHER Abraham was NOT Even a JEW!

PAGAN, IDOL Worshipper MORE LIKE Pagan Galatians than Jewish Teachers

God CALLED him out of DARKNESS into MARVELOUS Light of Grace

## b. Purpose

vs. 6-9 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And 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.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

v. 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles

Paul pictured JESUS by Preaching in Galatia / Spirit Fell / Faith Came

DIVERSE People of REGION – Mix of Tribes and Languages – Believed!

Had to ROCK the World – Vanilla, White Bread, Strict Pharisee SAUL

People of Every CULTURE, COUNTRY, CITIZENSHIP, Calling on Christ!

Logic: If God PROMISED ABE to Save All Nations, How dare we Make Gentiles act like Jews!

Problem I have in Going Back to Home Church in USA > Looks so VANILLA!

ONE Denomination, ONE Language, MOST People LOOK ALIKE

If we WANT to be BIBLICAL we must be GLOBAL > Jesus is LORD of ALL

### 3. Promise of Salvation

Salvation NEVER comes from LAW – Law brings CURSE & Judgment

Deut 27 – God tells Israel about to CROSS the JORDAN River

6 Tribes stand on Mt. Gerazim / 6 on Mt. Ebal – Recite Blessings & Curses

Paul KNEW this VIVID Scene from his HISTORY > Purpose of LAW

Law says “Do and Live” / Gospel says “Believe and Live!”

False Teachers wanted to Make Galatians SLAVES / Paul wants them FREE!

#### a. Curse Broken

DaNang, VN – TUMOR that was Cancerous – Heading for Surgery in Singapore

Attended the I.F. on Sunday - 8 Page Form to Recall all Sins, Parents, Grandparents

That was SHORT Form - Go to SEMINAR \$\$\$\$ - 50 pages with COACHING!

IF you CANNOT Remember All their FILTH – Offered HYPNOSIS to Recall!

O you dear idiots of Galatia....surely you can't be so idiotic!

J.B. Philips paraphrase of Galatians 3.1

vs. 10-13 For 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.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” Christ 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”

Paul SHOCKS Jewish Teachers of Galatia – Not just Pagan Gentiles CURSED

CURSE in ANYONE who does not DO ALL the things in Book of LAW

HORROR of OUR Curse FELL on Man who was HUNG ON A TREE

REDEEMED – Marketplace word for PAYMENT / Set Free to be Yours!

REDEEM your Tomatoes from Vendor when PAY FULL PRICE – Take Home!

INCALCULABLE PAYMENT Blood of SON of GOD – Been PAID in FULL!

HUNG from the TREE of the CROSS – BLOOD Paid the FULL Penalty for Sin

Did NOT say “It is FINISHED” on Easter – Said from CROSS, All Paid, DONE!

What is ATTRACTION of Legalism? Even Real Christians tempted to Fall to It?

Feeds our PRIDE – Look at Me! It’s about ME! And What I DID!

Find GRANDMA’S SECRET Sins so YOU can REPENT of Them > WORKS

What if CAN’T Find Secrets? Grandpa was HYPOCRITE, Fooled People > Pastor!

NOT Forgiven if CAN’T Find It? Gotta Confess It? Remains a CURSE??

Modern Judaizers and Simony – SELLING MISERY and HOPELESSNESS!

If we add works of the law to the sacrifice of the cross, then indeed we make a mockery of Jesus’ death just as the soldiers who spat upon him, the thieves who hurled insults on him, and the rabble who shouted, ‘Come down from the cross!’

Timothy George

For by grace we are saved through faith; we are justified by faith; we receive the Holy Spirit through faith; and we become the sons of God through faith.

Chinese Christians Confession of Faith, 1998

b. Blessing Come – Word of the Cross for ALL NATIONS

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

IF Storm of CURSE & JUDGMENT is PASSED – Only BLESSING Remains

MYSTERY of God’s Saving Work DEFIES our SIMPLISTIC Categorization



...people want...some method that will guarantee a good spiritual experience. Show us where the bar of obedience is so we can press it and get the religious cheese. But God is not a mechanism. The only way to know him is by entering into a trusting relationship with him.

Philip Ryken

v. 8 And the Scripture...preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham

Scripture preached – God HIMSELF WAS doing the TALKING!

Scripture is LIVING Word of God – ALIVE – God’s Word WRITTEN

Bible > GOD Speaks with LIVING and POWERFUL Voice

Paul NOT WIZARD / WONDER WORKER: Never sought to HEAL, Do Miracles

God DID Wonders, Miracles, Healings thru PAUL > Signs of APOSTLESHIP

Paul was MESSENGER – Teacher of Word – HERALD of Great News of Gospel!

Justification – God’s Message for the DAMNED, DOUBTFUL, DISCOURAGED

DAMNED – When we SEE OURSELVES as Great Sinners NEED Great Savior

DOUBTFUL – Sometimes NOT Seem like God has Wonderful Plan for our Life

IF you WONDER about the LOVE of God > LOOK at the CROSS

DISCOURAGED – Sometimes we are GLOOMY and HOPELESS > Need Gospel

Luther “Beat it into their heads” > Great Savior who GAVE Himself for Me!

Saw God the Son / Had God the Holy Spirit / Felt miracles from God the Father

Christ is innocent...He should not have been hanged from the tree. But because, according to the Law, every thief should be hanged according to the Law of Moses...he bore the person of a sinner and a thief – and not of one but all sinners and thieves...Paul, the former blasphemer, persecutor, and assaulter; of Peter, who denied Christ; of David, who was an adulterer and murderer...He took these sins, committed by us, upon His own body, in order to make satisfaction with His own blood.

Martin Luther

3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. 2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by 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? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— 6 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? 7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And 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.” 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. 10 For 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.” 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” 12 But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” 13 Christ 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”— 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.