

Galatians 3:1

You foolish Galatians!

Who has bewitched you?

Before your very eyes Jesus Christ
was clearly portrayed as crucified.

Galatians 3:2-5

I would like to learn just one thing from you:
Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law,
or by believing what you heard?

Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit,
are you now trying to attain your goal
by human effort? Have you suffered so much
for nothing – if it really was for nothing?

Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles
among you because you observe the law,
or because you believe what you heard?

Heidelberg Catechism Question 1 (PASTOR):

What is your only comfort in life and death?

Answer (ALL):

That I am not my own,
but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death,
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins
with His precious blood,
and has set me free
from all the power of the devil.

ALL:

He also preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, all things must work together
for my salvation.

Therefore, by His Holy Spirit
He also assures me of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing and ready
from now on to live for Him.

Consider Abraham:

“He believed God,
and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Understand, then, that those who believe
are children of Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram,
“Leave your country, your people
and your father’s household
and go to the land I will show you.
I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you.
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Matthew 3:9

“Do not think you can say to yourselves,
‘We have Abraham as our father.
I tell you that out of these stones
God can raise up children for Abraham!’”

Genesis 18:18

“Abraham will surely become
a great and powerful nation,
and all nations on earth
will be blessed through him.”

Genesis 18:18

“Abraham will surely become
a great and powerful nation,
and all nations on earth
will be blessed through him.”

Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing!

Galatians 3:8-9

The Scripture foresaw that God
would justify the Gentiles by faith,
and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham:
“All nations will be blessed through you.”

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

Galatians 3:10-12

All who rely on observing the law
are under a curse, for it is written:

“Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do
everything written in the Book of the Law.”

Clearly no one is justified before God by the law,
because, “The righteous will live by faith.”

The law is not based on faith; on the contrary,
“The man who does these things
will live by them.”

Galatians 3:13-14

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written:

“Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus,
so that by faith we might receive
the promise of the Spirit.

1 John 3:1

How great is the love
the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!

Galatians 3:15-16

Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case.

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

Genesis 26:4

“I will make your descendants as numerous
as the stars in the sky ...
and through your Seed all nations on earth
will be blessed...”

What I mean is this:

The law, introduced 430 years later,
does not set aside the covenant
previously established by God
and thus do away with the promise.

For if the inheritance depends on the law,
then it no longer depends on a promise;
but God in his grace gave it to Abraham
through a promise.

Galatians 3:19-20

What, then, was the purpose of the law?
It was added because of transgressions
until the Seed to whom the promise referred
had come.

The law was put into effect through angels
by a mediator.

A mediator, however,
does not represent just one party;
but God is one.

Galatians 3:21-22

Is the law, therefore, opposed
to the promises of God? Absolutely not!
For if a law had been given that could impart life,
then righteousness would certainly
have come by the law.

But the Scripture declares that
the whole world is a prisoner of sin,
so that what was promised,
being given through faith in Jesus Christ,
might be given to those who believe.

Galatians 3:23-25

Before this faith came,
we were held prisoners by the law,
locked up until faith should be revealed. ²⁴
So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ
that we might be justified by faith.

Now that faith has come,
we are no longer under
the supervision of the law.

Galatians 3:26-29

You are all sons of God
through faith in Christ Jesus,
for all of you who were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek,
slave nor free, male nor female,
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
If you belong to Christ,
then you are Abraham's seed,
and heirs according to the promise.