

GRACE IS...

Maturing By Faith

August 9, 2015

Galatians 3:1-14

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² 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? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? ⁴ Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? ⁵ Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

⁶ Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁷ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ 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.” ¹¹ Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will 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 hung on a tree.” ¹⁴ 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.

5 Reasons Legalism is a Danger in the Church?

- 1. Legalism shifts our trust away from Christ and onto our performance.**
- 2. Legalism robs us of our peace and security.**

3. Legalism breeds pride.
4. Legalism creates a toxic environment
5. Legalism leads to anger instead of compassion

3 Arguments Showing the Necessity of Faith Over Works

1. The Spirit was Given Because of Faith

² *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?*

2. Salvation Has Always Been by Grace Through Faith

Galatians 3:6

Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

3. Relying on the Law Brings a Curse

Galatians 3:10

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."