



GALATIANS 3a

In the days of this letter to the Galatian people throughout Greece, there was a conflict between the Christian converts. The converts from Judaism came with their rituals and Mosaic Law, and the Gentiles came with their background of gods and temples and fleshly rituals.

The Apostle Paul is trying to bring them together while Peter is trying to fit into both groups at once. Paul is trying to teach the Jewish converts that their religious rituals are NOT to be boasted of... He will tell the believers in Ephesus this:

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift* of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

V 10 is for the Gentiles...

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

SO... As their spiritual dad Paul had taught ALL of them that their salvation was by faith – NOT by works. He had taught them that NO RELIGIOUS rituals – either from Moses or from Greek mythology could save them. ONLY JESUS could.

They all nodded their heads in agreement – then Paul leaves on a mission's trip and they all began to worship their rituals and religions again.

In frustration he writes...

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians!

- Oh man! Like the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 you can tell that this is going to get rough...

...Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth,

before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

- Are you under some kind of spell? Are you out of your minds? Are you crazy? Stupid?
- You know of the Lord's sacrifice for you as if you had seen it yourselves it was SO CLEARLY PORTRAYED for you.

FAITH or FLESH – CHOOSE ONLY ONE

2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—

- Salvation is a GIFT of God... You DO NOT earn gifts. Gifts, by nature of gift giving... are free!
- Trying to earn something that is already free is..... Listen...

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? **WORKS**

- **NLT** - How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, **FAITH** why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? **WORKS?**
- **Why are you trying to improve on what JESUS did on the cross?**
 - **Thank You Jesus for dying for me...** But Just in case I put in 8 volunteer hours a week to satisfy Your Father... I read the bible everyday to make it here... I threw a 20 in the box every time I went to church to impress You... OH... AND I stopped cussing too – just for You. 😊
- **Let us PLEASE not do this CCSV. We will live by faith, Amen?**
 - Our Family has a favorite movie that has this line in it: **“We strayed from the formula and we paid the price.”** We say it all the time... Bonus points if you can name the movie
- Stick with God's formula: HIS plan of salvation Beloved!

PLEASE TELL ME I DIDN'T WASTE TIME ON YOU

4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed *it* was in vain? (***Did you suffer persecution just to go backwards?***)

WHAT DID YOU SAY YES TO? FAITH or WORKS?

5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 6 just as Abraham "BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS." **GEN 15:6**

- At 100 years old God promises that Abe's family would be unnumerable – more than the stars in the sky... More than the grains of sand on the beaches of the earth... AND... Abe believed Him. So, let me ask: How many Jews are there on the earth???

HOW MANY NATIONS ARE BLESSED BY ABE'S FAITH?

7 Therefore know that *only* those who are **of faith** are sons of Abraham. (***This includes us too!***)

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "*In you all the nations shall be blessed.*" **GEN 12:3**

9 So then those who *are* of faith (**You Galatians**) are blessed with believing Abraham.

CEV - This means that everyone who has faith will share in the blessings that were given to Abraham because of his faith.

THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTINUE IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO DO THEM." **DET 27:26 BUMMER!**

LIVE LIKE THIS...

11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." **HABAKUK 2:4**

- This was an encouragement to a discouraged prophet who thought that there were NO faithful people left... There were...

12 Yet the law is **not** of faith, but "THE MAN WHO DOES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM." **LEVITICUS 18:5**

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse (**Condemnation**) of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"), **Deuteronomy 21:23**

14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

CONCLUSION...

What would you think if you invited Lynette and I over for dinner and you bought some Santa Carota carrot finished ribeye steaks – 200.00 per pound – You went all out on the fixings and baked a pie and some home-made bread – THE WORKS! You paired the meal with some sweet tea that had brewed all day long out in the sun until it was the perfect color...

THEN... Just in case your food isn't going to be enough... We show up with a bag of MacDonal'd's burgers and fries... A couple of Cokes, and some Twinkies from the Gas station for dessert?

Would you have some feelings? Angry perhaps? Disappointed? Hurt? Would call us names under your breath?

THAT is how the Apostle felt when he heard that the Galatians had pushed aside the precious blood of Jesus Christ for their old diets of works and rituals. He is angry! He calls them stupid too.

Beloved, do not cheapen the sacrifice of Christ by depending on good works. Live by faith! Cs29