

## The One True Gospel

### Galatians 3:1-9

#### *Beginning and Ending by the Spirit*

#### Galatians 3:1-8 – Works is Foolish

*You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? <sup>2</sup> I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you experience so much for nothing—if in fact it was for nothing? <sup>5</sup> So then, does God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law? Or is it by believing what you heard— <sup>6</sup> just like Abraham who **believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness?***

- Distorting the gospel makes one foolish.
- We are call to walk by the Spirit not to walk by works.
- We are saved by grace through faith and we continue in grace and faith. Our works do not put us in right standing before a Holy God...Christ does that for us.

Romans 4:6-8 (CSB): <sup>6</sup> Likewise, David also speaks of the blessing of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> Blessed are those whose lawless acts are forgiven and whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup> Blessed is the person the Lord will never charge with sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB): *He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Philippians 3:8-9 (CSB): <sup>8</sup> More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.

- Why is it important to understand that our standing before God is by grace through faith and not by works? Because, it is considered foolish to think our good works is what makes us right before God. Isaiah 64:6.
- All that God does for us, is not connect to our “goodness” but to God’s grace. Romans 5:8.
- Our standing before the Holy God is by grace through faith not by works. Ephesians 2:8-9.
- We need Christ’s righteousness not our own.

Romans 3:9-12 (CSB): <sup>9</sup> What then? Are we any better off? Not at all! For we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin, <sup>10</sup> as it is written: **There is no one righteous, not even one. <sup>11</sup> There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.**

Romans 3:23-24 (CSB): <sup>23</sup> For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

1 John 1:8-10 (CSB): *<sup>8</sup>If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

The believers in Galatia were distorting the gospel because they were adding works into the mix. Good deeds, lifestyles, evil deeds, etc....contribute zero to our salvation; meaning anyone from any background or sinfulness can be saved. Because it's all about Jesus alone. Not Jesus plus something else. We continue to grow our faith through Jesus...not Jesus plus something else. Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7.

We are called to fix our eyes upon Jesus. Not our good works, not the church, not our family...Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (CSB): *Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, <sup>2</sup>keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why do we need the righteousness of Christ put on our account?
- ❖ What does Romans 5:8 teach us about God?
- ❖ Why should we seek daily to fix our eyes upon Jesus?

### Galatians 3:7-9 – By Grace through Faith

*<sup>7</sup>You know, then, that those who have faith, these are Abraham's sons. <sup>8</sup>Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and proclaimed the gospel ahead of time to Abraham, saying, **All the nations will be blessed through you.** <sup>9</sup>Consequently, those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith.*

- Faith is the key...not works, ability or goodness.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:7-9 (CSB): *<sup>7</sup>For we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him.*
  - Psalm 119:105 (CSB): *Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.*
  - Romans 10:17 (CSB): *So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.*
- By grace through faith has always been God's plan for His people.
- Faith is the blessing...not good works.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (CSB): *<sup>8</sup>For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— <sup>9</sup>not from works, so that no one can boast.*

Romans 6:23 (CSB): *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

By grace through faith is the great blessing of the gospel. The fact that our works are not needed to be in right standing before a Holy God is the greatest news of all time.

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How do we walk by faith and not by sight (Psalm 119:105)?
- ❖ Why do we need to remember that faith is a gift from God?
- ❖ After we are saved, why do we seek to do good works?