

Galatians 3:1-29 **Who Bewitched You – Law or Faith**

Who Bewitched You – Who turned you from Faith to works of the Law

¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? 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? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? ⁴ Have you suffered so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain?

Works of the Law – or – Faith of Abraham

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." ⁷ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 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." ⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Redeemed from the curse of the Law – The Just 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." ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." ¹² Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." ¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 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.

Seed of Abraham

¹⁵ Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. ¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. ¹⁷ And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Purpose of the Law – To convict all of sin

¹⁹ What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. ²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. ²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

To bring us to Christ

²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Neither Jew or Greek, Bond or Free, Male or Female – All One in Christ

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

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Facts Revealed:

Who Bewitched You – Who turned you from Faith to works of the Law [Galatians 3:1-4]

- ✚ Judaizers have been busy in the Churches of Galatia convincing the Gentiles to convert to Judaism to be saved. [Acts 15:1, 13:45, 50, 14:1-6, 19, 15:1, 21:20-21, Galatians 1:6-9]
- ✧ The Gospel message was always given first to the Jews in every town in which Paul ministered.
- ✧ The Jews have violently opposed the Gospel message of salvation by faith in Christ from the first introduction in their area.
- ✧ The problem is a common problem that has plagued the Churches around the world.
- ✚ Paul addressed this common problem by asking, "who bewitched you?"
- ✧ They began by Faith in Christ through believing the Gospel of Grace preached by Paul and his company.
- ✧ By Faith they had believed that Jesus had been crucified for the sins of the world.
- ✧ By Faith they had received the Spirit of God.
- ✧ The works of the law at question, is not obedience to the righteous commandments of God, but adherence to the **commandments of men** found in the **oral laws of Judaism** which the Jews elevated to equality with the commandments of God. [Matthew 15:9, Mark 7:7-8]
- ✧ It is the **commandments of men** that Jesus had said made the commandments of God of no effect. [Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:1-13]
- ✧ It is foolishness to turn from Faith in the finished work of Christ, and attempt to reestablish the commandments of men by going back under the laws of Judaism from which you had been set free.
- ✧ By keeping the ritualistic laws of Judaism, one does not perfect his relationship with God Who paid the full price for our atonement by the blood of Christ.
- ✧ Have the things you suffered in persecution been in vain?

Works of the Law – or Faith of Abraham [Galatians 3:5-9]

- ✚ Paul then uses reference to the righteousness God imputed to Abraham for believing God's Word as the example of Faith that saves. [Genesis 15:6]
- ✧ Abraham believed God at His Word, God accounted it to Abraham as righteousness.
- ✧ 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?
- ✧ Only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.
- ✧ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith as He did Abraham.
- ✧ Therefore the Gospel was preached to Abraham when God said, "In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed." [Genesis 18:18, 22:18, 26:4]
- ✧ Those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Redeemed from the curse of the Law – The Just shall live by Faith [Galatians 3:10-14]

- ✚ The Law contained a curse for anyone who does not continue doing all things written in the Book of the Law. [Deuteronomy 11:26-28, 28:15, 45]
- ✧ The fact that no one is justified by the Law in the sight of God is evident in the words, "The just shall live by faith." [Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38]

- ✧ However it is also stated that the man who keeps all the commandments of God shall live by them. [Deuteronomy 5:32, 8:1, 30:16, Nehemiah 9:29]
- ✧ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by having become a curse for us.
- ✧ Christ took our curse, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through Faith.

Seed of Abraham [Galatians 3:15-18]

- ✧ Even human covenants are confirmed and no one annuls or adds to it.
- ✧ God's promise was made to Abraham and his seed, singular, speaking of Christ.
 - ✧ The Law given 430 years after Israel went down into Egypt, [Exodus 12:40-41]
 - ✧ The Law, given later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed earlier by God which spoke of Christ.
 - ✧ If the inheritance is by the Law, then it is no longer by promise.
 - ✧ However, God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Purpose of the Law – To convict all of sin [Galatians 3:19-22]

- ✧ Sin was in the world, and the Law was given to define sin and righteousness.
 - ✧ If a law had been given which would have given life, then righteousness would have been by the law.
 - ✧ The Law was our instructor until the promised Seed came.
 - ✧ Scripture has placed all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

The Law was given To bring us to Christ [Galatians 3:23-27]

- ✧ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
 - ✧ If we did not have the law to show us our sin, we would not realize our need of a Savior.
 - ✧ After faith has come, we no longer need the tutor.
 - ✧ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - ✧ If you were baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ.

Neither Jew or Greek, Bond or Free, Male or Female – All One in Christ [Galatians 3:28-29]

- ✧ As Believers, there is no distinction between Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or 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.