

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

O FOOLISH GALATIANS, WHO HATH BEWITCHED YOU, THAT YE SHOULD NOT OBEY THE TRUTH,...

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 23, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING: **GALATIANS 3:1-5**

Galatians 3:1, O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

1. BACKGROUND

Please refer to the January 23, 2022 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. **Galatians** was specifically given by God to the Apostle Paul to guard against legalism.
- b. It is not the intent to discredit, despise, or disregard the Mosaic Law.
- c. The law demands perfection and fulness and its purposes are maintained through this Epistle. Only the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled God's requirement as set forth in the law. **Matthew 5:17, Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. Romans 8:3, For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:**
- d. It is these very qualities that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was able to accomplish as He pleased God and opened the way to salvation for mankind. **Matthew 3:17, And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**
- e. There is no other way; we cannot be justified by works. **Acts 13:39, And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.**
- f. Three Epistles in the New Testament quote from **Habakkuk 2:4, Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.**
- g. The three Epistles are:
 1. **Romans 1:17, For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**
 2. **Hebrews 10:38, Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**
 3. **Galatians 3:11, But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.**
- h. In the **Book of Romans**, the emphasis is on the fact that man apart from the Mosaic Law is justified before God by faith.
- i. In **Galatians**, Paul defends this Gospel message and provides a warning to those who would add to the doctrine of justification by faith. **Galatians 1:8, But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.**
- j. **Faith plus the law was the thrust of Judaism, but faith plus nothing is the answer Paul is setting forth for us. Galatians 2:21, I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**
- k. The Jews questioned Paul's authority as an apostle, and his teaching by simple faith, but it was adequately defended by him. **Galatians 1:12, For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**
- l. He defended not only his Apostleship but his sufficiency to discuss the Gospel of the Grace of God. **Ephesians 2:8-9, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

- m. Since there is so much confusion in our day, let's review the requirements to be an Apostle. Apostles existed in a two-fold sense.
1. An Apostle had to be one of the twelve. **Acts 1:21-26**, Wherefore of these men which have **companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22: Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. 23: And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24: And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25: That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26: And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.**
 - a. He had to be with Jesus during His three-year ministry. **Verse 21**
 - b. He must have witnessed the post resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Verse 22**
 - c. He must have been chosen by Jesus Christ. **Acts 9:15**, But the Lord said unto him, **Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: Acts 26:16-17**, But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; **17: Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,**
 2. To be an Apostle one had to be sent forth. **Acts 11:22**, Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.
- n. There is no question that Paul was chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ to replace Judas as one of the twelve.
1. He was an Apostle with all the credentials, and the ability to perform miracles and sign gifts as the other apostles had been given.
 2. This qualifies Paul to write such a letter to the Galatians and defend the Gospel of salvation by grace alone. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**, Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2: By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3: For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**
- o. Some of my listeners and those who don't attend our church on a regular basis are still having questions about eternal security. They often use **Hebrews 6:1-6**, to substantiate their belief.
- p. **Once you are saved you are always saved.**
- q. I will attempt to lay this controversy to rest during the message today if you will believe the truth.
- r. If you do not believe the truth and you cannot accept the Preserved Word of God as it is, I have no solution for your problem.
- s. The Lord says in **John 10:27**, **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And in John 10:28-29**, **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29: My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.**
- t. Paul uses this letter to remind Christians that they are heirs of God and they are His children. **Galatians 3:29**, **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**
- u. This inheritance is not available by works; it is only by faith in Jesus Christ. **Titus 3:5**, **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**
- v. Paul was a Jew himself and refutes the false doctrine that Christians must go in the way of Judaism and observe the Mosaic Law to obtain salvation. He declares that Abraham was saved by faith about 400 years before the law was received through Moses.
- w. There is no question that Paul concludes the discussion that we walk in the Spirit, displaying the fruit of the Spirit and because we are saved by grace we must live by grace.
- x. At this junction, Paul is about to review the experience of the Galatian people. One of the things he talks about is how they were saved; by the law or by faith in Jesus?
- y. As we look at the points to the message today, we will view this experience of the Galatians. I hope to set in solid concrete that once we are saved by God's grace and receive a brand-new nature,

we are saved forever; there is no way we can get rid of a birth. God said to Nicodemus in **John 3:7**, *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. Once you are born again, you can't be unborn.*

- z. Concerning the new nature: **2 Peter 1:4**, makes it plain, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you?

1. **Galatians 3:1**, *O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*
2. The Apostle Paul indicates that the Galatians were foolish in believing they could be saved by the law.
3. He says in the mind of man it seems there are other ways to God, But Jesus indicates only one way. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
4. *Jesus Christ provided for our salvation through His death, burial and resurrection.*
5. Paul uses the statement "**who hath bewitched you.**"
6. In other words, what has gotten into your mind?
7. "**before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth,**" Paul is painting a picture for them of the Gospel.
8. He takes them back to the cross; the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
9. This verse also says "**that ye should not obey the truth,**"
10. The truth of the Preserved Word of God will be given to you in this message. If one rejects the truth God will send them a strong delusion that they should believe a lie. **2 Thessalonians 2:11**, *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*
11. *Believing the truth is the difference between having a home in Heaven and in lifting up your eyes in hell.*
12. To set the stage: It is salvation by grace alone.
13. *Christ Jesus, in His crucified death, shedding of His blood and His bodily resurrection, and His presentation of His blood to God the Father that made salvation possible. Galatians 2:20, I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

b. Received ye the Spirit by works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

1. **Galatians 3:2**, *This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*
2. The Bible says in **Romans 10:17**, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
3. Paul is speaking about the whole process of salvation.
4. It is our responsibility to respond to the Gospel. **Philippians 2:10**, *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; Philippians 2:11, And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
5. As we review the entire Bible and keep the context of what happened in the Old Testament, **no person received the Holy Spirit by the works of the law.** **Hebrews 11:13**, *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth*
6. *Salvation has always been by the hearing of faith.*
7. Paul reminds the Galatians that they could never receive the Spirit by the law.
8. *The Holy Spirit is evidence of our conversion;* He comes to indwell us, He regenerates us, baptizes us into the body of Christ, seals us until the day of redemption, and then we have the possibility of being filled with the Spirit as we feed the new nature with the Preserved Word of God.
9. The Bible goes on to say in **Romans 8:9**, *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*
10. The bottom-line question is "**In whom have you trusted?**"

11. Have you trusted Christ, are you willing to obey the truth?
12. *The truth is the Gospel message of your salvation.*
13. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. **Ephesians 1:13, In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**

c. Are ye so foolish, having begun in the Spirit?

1. **Galatians 3:3, Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?**
2. Paul is asking if the Holy Spirit is the one who converted them. Is the Holy Spirit the one who brought them to Christ? **John 6:44, No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**
3. Now that you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, are you going to turn back and live under the law? This does not cause one to lose their salvation. It causes confusion, frustration and the growth process is underdeveloped.
4. *Thank God, He has called us to live on a higher plain than the law.*
5. Having begun in the Spirit, we are not made perfect by the flesh, but we live by faith in the Son of God.
6. We cannot live the Christian life; the Holy Spirit must live it through us.

d. Have ye suffered so many things in vain?

1. **Galatians 3:4, Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.**
2. Paul is asking again, are you going to let all these things you have suffered come to naught?
3. He reminds us Jesus has paid the price for our salvation in receiving the Gospel. **2 Corinthians 5:21, For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**
4. It was not in vain! No question, the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross, died for our sins, made the statement "**It is finished,**" bodily rose from the grave, presented His blood at the Throne of God and God the Father sees us through His precious blood. **John 19:30, When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. Hebrews 10:12, But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;**
5. Halleluiah! What perfection we have as we stand clothed in the righteousness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 1:30, But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**
6. This is the Gospel Message in a nutshell, and this is the purpose of the Gospel.

e. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among

1. **Galatians 3:5, He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**
2. The Jews and Gentiles had seen miracles done by the Apostle Paul.
3. He was truly one of the apostles and was given the sign gifts to work miracles and healing.
4. Not only did he possess sign gifts but also possessed the ability to do great and miraculous things to validate the Preserved Word of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
5. This was before the Bible was written and was designed to validate that the apostles were true men of God. **Mark 16:20, And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**
6. Paul asks the Galatians if ministering the Spirit was by works of the law or the hearing of faith.
7. Naturally we must conclude it was about hearing of faith.
8. *The sign gifts were done away with after the Preserved Word of God had been given.*
9. The sign gifts disappeared with the Apostles. **1 Corinthians 13:8-10, Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9: For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10: But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.** That which is perfect is come refers to the completed Preserved Word of God which is forever settled in Heaven. **Psalms 119:89, For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.**
10. *Justification by faith was the experience of the Galatians.*
11. In dealing with what the Lord Jesus has done, we must be careful about experiences; they

- must collaborate with the Preserved Word of God.
12. The Gospel is sufficient; experience merely confirms the Gospel.
 13. Let's not get the cart before the horse; let's not have an experience before we believe the Gospel. **Philippians 3:10**, *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know Jesus as your personal Saviour, my friend?
- b. If you do not, today is your day of salvation.
- c. The Bible says in **Matthew 11:28-29**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
- d. When we do what this verse says we find the plan of salvation is plain.
- e. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- f. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- g. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- h. Would you please stand?

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