

Gal.3:1-7

Faith: Then, Now, & Always

- in this chapter, Paul talks a lot about God's covenant with Abraham and Moses(Law)

*God's covenant with Moses does not contradict His covenant with Abraham, it compliments it

- one covenant establishes a people while the other gives this people structure

Truth- both of these covenants find their fulfillment in Christ- How?

- The covenant with Abraham was a covenant of promise and the covenant with Moses was one that would show man's inadequateness and need

(Christ is God's promise and meets man's need of righteousness)

vs.1- "foolish"- (anoetos) unwise

(The word does not imply a lack of intelligence, but a lack of obedience)

- "bewitched"- (baskaino) to fascinate, to charm, to slander someone with enticing words

*the Galatians were acting as if they had been subject to occult influences or under a spell

*Paul uses the word "bewitched" to show how the Judaizers did it

(They used flattering words that made them sound like they knew what they were talking about while belittling those who they knew that were opposed to them)

*they deceived the Galatians simply by appealing to their emotions

- "set forth"- (prographo) to portray openly such as a billboard

*the truth was set before them to see clearly but that was "crucified among them" when they took up a legalist doctrine

vs.2- Paul takes them back with this question

- they obviously received the Holy Spirit once they heard the Gospel and believed

(This question would cause them to evaluate when they truly received the Holy Spirit)

vs.3- "made perfect"- (epiteleo) to bring to an end, to complete

- "flesh"- meaning by their deeds (attempting to keep the Law)

*if they believed their redemption was complete by what they could do then their belief would be that Jesus didn't do enough

vs.4- "suffered"- (pascho) an experience (either good or bad)

*Paul uses this word to describe the Galatian's personal experience of salvation in Christ

- "vain"- (eike) for no reason or without purpose

Layman's terms- "Have you experienced all that you have in Christ for no reason if it still has no purpose or reason to you?"

vs.5- "He"- God Himself

- "ministereth"- (epichoregeo) to furnish or fully supply (its where we get choreograph)

*it was God Himself that supplies His Spirit and works miracles

- the question here is "Does God do these things because of what you can do or because you have faith in Him?"- Matt.17:20

Truth- Divine power is not received from human effort

vs.6- Paul quotes Gen.15:6 to remind them that Abraham's righteousness did not come as a result of his circumcision or the Law- Rom.4:9-11

*circumcision was only a sign of the covenant and wasn't even introduced until Gen.17:10

*the Law wasn't instituted until Moses came along several hundred years later

vs.7- the legalists taught that only natural descendants of Abraham(Jews) and those who were circumcised were his sons in the faith

*but God said those of faith become His children- Rom.2:28-29, Gal.4:4-6

- believing Jews and Gentiles are both termed as the spiritual children of Abraham simply because they follow his example of faith- Rom.4:16