

Galatians

Chapter 3:1-5

- I. **Galatians 3:1-5**¹O 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? ²This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ³Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? ⁴Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. ⁵He 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?
- a. **Galatians starts out with a series of six rapid fire questions. It is interesting that there is not ‘one’ set of parenthesis or one sentence. There are just six questions back to back.**
- b. Foolish
- I. **Foolish Greek word *anoetos***- Strongs Con. From G1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of G3539; unintelligent; by implication, sensual:—fool(-ish), unwise.
- II. **This word is translated in the NT as foolish (4x), fool (1x), unwise (1x). This is different than the greek word “moros” which is translated 13 times and gives an idea of absurd(**matt 5:22**).**
1. **Luke 24:25** ²⁵Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:
- a. **Emmaus walk after resurrection.**

2. **Romans 1:14** ¹⁴I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

a. **Paul mentioned that he purposed to come before. This verse deals with the idea of not being ashamed of the gospel and for all to hear (vs 16).**

3. **Galatians 3:3** ³Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

a. **This is the same passage and an important question that we will look at tonight.**

4. **I Timothy 6:9** ⁹But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

a. **This use is a passage on contentment and the warning of what the love of money will do. Notice “foolish” and “hurtful” are descriptors of lust.**

5. **Titus 3:3** ³For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

a. **Foolish is used here to describe a previous life apart from Christ.**

c. Bewitched

I. **Bewitched Greek word *baskaino*-** Strongs Con. akin to G5335; to malign, i.e. (by extension) to fascinate (by false representations):—bewitch.

II. **Bewitched is usually translated from *existeme* in every occurrence except in Galatians 3:1.**

III. **The Galatians were being given a false representation of the truth. They were making an**

unintelligent decision to not obey the truth and instead allow others to mesmerize them with non truths. Let that sink in. We see this today.

Remember what Paul said in II Corinthians.

1. II Corinthians 11:13-15 ¹³For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

IV. Paul also addresses the Ephesians to grow up and be no more children. Pay attention to the characteristics of children mentioned.

1. Ephesians 4:14 ¹⁴That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

d. The truth

I. Christ was crucified to set them free. The emphasis was moving toward behavior and merit and away from the glorious liberty that the DBR had brought them.

e. Set forth

I. There is a thought that there were pictures and placards posted about the resurrected Messiah.

II. Galatians 3:2 ²This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

a. The Spirit

I. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit the moment that we believe. There is one baptism today when we are taken out of Adam and placed into the Body of Christ by the Spirit.

- II. **Ephesians 1:13** ¹³In 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, ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
 - III. **Ephesians 4:5** ⁵One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
 - IV. **Romans 6:3** ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
 - V. **I Corinthians 12:13** ¹³For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
 - VI. **Colossians 2:11-12** ¹¹In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: ¹²Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
 - VII. **II Corinthians 1:22** ²²Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.
 - VIII. **II Corinthians 5:5** ⁵Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.
 - IX. **I Corinthians 6:19-20** ¹⁹What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- b. Hearing
 - I. **Romans 10:17** ¹⁷So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - c. Faith

- I. **Romans 1:17** ¹⁷For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
 - II. **Romans 4:4-5** ⁴Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. ⁵But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.
 - III. **Romans 11:6** ⁶And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.
- III. **Galatians 3:3** ³Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?
- a. Flesh
 - I. **Perfect by the flesh is in reference to keeping the law.**
 - II. **Romans 8:7-9** ⁷Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But 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
 - III. **Colossians 2:6** ⁶As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him:
 - 1. **How did you receive Christ?**
 - IV. **Acts 13:38-39** ³⁸Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: ³⁹And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.
 - V. **Romans 7:3-5** ³So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be

married to another man. ⁴Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. ⁵For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

VI. **Romans 3:27** ²⁷Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

IV. **Galatians 3:4-5** ⁴Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. ⁵He 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?

a. Suffering is normal

I. **The suffering would be in vain if the affliction causes you to remove yourself from the truth of the gospel of grace.**

II. **Peter talks about suffering when you haven't deserved it**

1. **I Peter 3:14**¹⁴But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;
2. **I Peter 4:13-16**¹³But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. ¹⁴If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. ¹⁶Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

III. **Paul**

1. **II Timothy 3:12** ¹²Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
2. **Philippians 1:29** ²⁹For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

IV. **Jesus in the beatitudes**

1. **Matthew 5:10** ¹⁰Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

b. Miracles

I. **Remember the churches of Galatian and what they saw from Paul and Barnabas.**

1. **Acts 14:3** ³Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.
2. **Acts 14: 9-10** ⁹The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.
3. **Acts 14:19-20** ¹⁹And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead. ²⁰Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.
4. **This account seems to be what Paul references in II Corinthians.**
 - a. **II Corinthians 12:2** ²I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

b. **II Corinthians 12:12** ¹²Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

II. There was a progressive change to signs, tongues, prophecy, miracles and faith healing. Let's look at what was present in Paul's ministry as he received the full revelation of the ministry.

1. **First, he said certain things would cease.**

a. **I Corinthians 13:8-10** ⁸Charity 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. ⁹For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

2. **Second, the healings stopped.**

a. **Paul himself**

i. **II Corinthians 12:7-9** ⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

b. **Trophimus**

i. **II Timothy 4:20** ²⁰Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

c. **Epaphroditus**

i. **Philippians 2:26-27** ²⁶For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. ²⁷For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

d. **Timothy**

i. **I Timothy 5:23** ²³Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.