

Introduction: Our Literal and Metaphorical Senses

Paul has spent the first portion of the letter explaining the source of his gospel that was preached among the Galatians. He has also given the background of his conversion and his own interactions with the Jerusalem apostles to remind the Galatians of his credentials as an apostle of Christ. Unfortunately, the Galatians have fallen under the influence of Jewish false teachers who have told them that it is necessary for them to place themselves back under the Law in order that they might continue rightly in the faith. Paul turns now in the body of the letter to refute these teachers.

Main Point: God works in the lives of His people by the Spirit's power as we _____ to Him in faith, _____ His promises to us in Christ.

Galatians 3:1-6

- Paul begins by expressing his concern for the Galatians in a way that asks them to consider their _____. (v. 1)

- (1) His language demonstrates the seriousness of their situation.

“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?”

- They are “foolish” in the sense that they have demonstrated a lack of spiritual _____ and have brought shame upon themselves as a result.
- His use of the term “bewitch” is intended to highlight the _____ of the influence that has come upon them.

- (2) He uses imagery associated with the “_____” in both the negative and the positive to get his point across.

“bewitch”—*βασκαίνω* (*baskainō*)—to exert an evil influence through the eye (to “cast the evil eye”). This was assoc. with jealousy, resentment, or covetousness leading one to curse another.

- The false teachers have cast an envious eye upon them and sought to influence them to _____ the things of the OT Law.

“It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.”

“portrayed”—*προγράφω* (*prographō*)—to set forth for public notice, show forth/portray publicly, proclaim

- While he certainly preached of the resurrection of Christ, he reminds them of the _____ of Christ which is central to their present situation.

“...they needed to see and understand clearly the implications of the crucifixion on their current dalliance with the Law. The crucifixion proves the Law no longer pertains to any who would relate to God; Christ completed its work when he died upon the cross.” — Michael Burer

Key Point: We do well to consider _____ or _____ our eyes are focused upon.

- Paul asks them to consider the nature of the Holy Spirit's _____ work among them. (vv. 2-3)

- (1) His rhetorical question focuses on their _____.

“Did you receive the Spirit by...”

What was the basis for this miraculous event?

“works of the Law” →

“hearing with faith” →

- This phrase recalls the words of the Lord Jesus (Mark 4:8-9) as well as Paul's own theology of conversion discussed in other letters (Rom. 10:17; Eph. 1:13).

- (2) The answer to his first question is implied in the next questions which are lovingly _____.

“Are you so foolish?”

“Their flirtation with the Law is illogical, contradictory, and dangerous because it means they are turning from the Spirit who was part and parcel of their salvation through the Gospel.” —Michael Burer

“are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

- Having received the Spirit by faith, by what means they were to continue to walk faithfully with God?

“flesh” –σάρξ (sarx)—the physical body or what comprises it; our external life; our fallen human nature.

Used here, it refers to the _____ acts associated with keeping the Law.

“The opponents may have taught that the Mosaic covenant completed the Abrahamic, thus arguing that the Law was an important complement to faith in the Messiah.” –Michael Burer

Key Point: We do well to reflect upon the initial work of _____ that the Holy Spirit did in our lives.

- Paul then asks them to consider the nature of the Holy Spirit’s _____ work among them. (vv. 4-6)

- (1) They should recall the Spirit’s work to _____ them through suffering.

Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

- The word translated as “suffer” can simply refer to what is experienced. In light of Paul’s own experiences of suffering in the region of Galatia (Acts 13:45,50; 14:5,19) it is reasonable to believe that the Galatian believers had faced many of the same things (likely at the hand of unbelieving Jews).

- (2) He references the continued _____ of God and the miracles He is doing in their midst.

“Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you...”

- The idea here is that God supplies _____ and _____ all that His people need.
- The Galatians had witnessed miracles during Paul’s ministry among them (Acts 14:3, 8-11) and the Lord had evidently continued to work powerfully in their churches.

What is the basis for God’s continued work in their midst?

“works of the Law”

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- (3) Paul then draws a comparison between their faith and that of _____.

“just as Abraham “BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS”?

- This is a partial quotation of Gen. 15:6. Abraham believed the promises of God to Him and the Lord counted/reckoned/credited it to him as righteousness.

This passage and Paul’s references to it in the NT are central to the doctrine of _____.

- Paul is demonstrating to the Galatians that Abraham was counted righteous before God, not by works, but by _____ with _____!

Key Point: We do well to reflect upon the ongoing _____ of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Paul’s Message to the Galatians

The Galatians must understand that they are rightly related to God because they have heard and believed the Gospel. The work of the Holy Spirit in their midst should be ample evidence that they are lacking nothing as His people.

Concluding Thoughts

1. We are all tempted at times to think that our works increase our _____ before God.

2. The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives _____ us that God is with us and that we are His children.

_____ (John 14:16-18)

_____ (John 16:7-11)

_____ (Rom. 8:14)

_____ (Rom. 8:15-16)

Rom. 8:14-16—¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

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Key Point: We do well to consider who or what our eyes are focused upon.

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This passage and Paul’s references to it in the NT are central to the doctrine of imputation.

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Key Point: We do well to reflect upon the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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2. The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives encourages us that God is with us and that we are His children.

Comfort (John 14:16-18)

Conviction (John 16:7-11)

Guidance (Rom. 8:14)

Assurance (Rom. 8:15-16)

Rom. 8:14-16—14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,