



Galatians 3:1-5

Believers or Bewitched Fools?

by Bob DeWaay

August 4, 2019

Bewitched Fools

Galatians 3:1a (NASB)

You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you...

- "Foolish" means "without understanding"
- "Bewitch" means "cast the evil eye" or "beguile"
- "Who" is singular and likely implies Satan

They Had Heard the Message of the Cross

Galatians 3:1b (NASB)

...before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

- Paul preached Christ and Him crucified
- Paul preached the resurrection
- Acts 13:29-39 shows how Paul preached Christ crucified

A Rhetorical Question: How did you receive the Spirit?

Galatians 3:2 (NASB)

This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

- Paul assumes they know the right answer
- Faith in Christ through the gospel is how Jews and Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit

Justification and Sanctification Are on the Same Basis

Galatians 3:3 (NASB)

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

- This defines “foolish” as used in verse 1
- Justification and sanctification are by grace through faith
- God uses means, but those means are never law-works

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

4

Empty Suffering

Galatians 3:4 (NASB)

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

- This rhetorical question is designed to shock them back into reality
- Vain can be translated “for nothing”
- Those who go back to law-works after coming to Christ are in grave danger

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

5

God’s Working in the Church Is by Faith

Galatians 3:5 (NASB)

So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

- Another rhetorical question, the answer to which should be obvious to them
- The cross of Christ, believed, IS the power of God

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

6

Implications and Applications

- Satan’s spells always attack the cross
- Sanctification is by grace through faith and proceeds along the same lines as justification

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

7

Satan's Accusations Silenced

Revelation 12:10b, 11 (NASB)

...the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And **they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb** and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Satan's Spells Are Thwarted

Colossians 2:14, 15 (NASB)

Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When **He had disarmed the rulers and authorities**, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Sanctification Is by Grace Through Faith

Colossians 2:6, 7 (HCSB)

Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with gratitude.

- We do not go back to works for our Christian walk, we abide in Christ
- Gratitude is for God's work, not ours