

O Foolish Galatians!

“You can’t believe God without believing in God, but you can believe in God without believing God! Saving faith is different from generic faith in the existence of God, or even in the doctrines and teachings of the Bible in general.” –

[“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 73.

Read Galatians 3:1 – Bewitched the Galatians. What does this mean? Why did Paul say, “publicly portray as crucified”?

- Bewitched is only used here in all of the New Testament. The Ancient Greeks were afraid of the idea that a spell could be cast on them by an “evil eye”. Ancient Greek letters discovered over the years contained salutations like, "Above all I pray that you may be in health unharmed by the evil eye and faring prosperously." [Commentary on Galatians by David B. Curtis](#)
 - The idea of the evil eye was like that of a snake hypnotizing its prey. Paul was implying that the Galatians have been put under a spell by these Judaizes.
 - **Interesting Fact** – In the KJV the phrase “That ye should not obey the truth” is inserted. This is not in any of the old manuscripts. The

copyist added this in the KJV and was not in Paul's original letter.

Most Bible translations today have removed it.

- Publicly portray means Paul made the crucifixion the most important thing in his message of salvation which they believed. The Galatians understood it. Paul made it “public”, the first thing, the most important thing. With the Holy Spirit moving the hearts of these people the clear view of Jesus crucifixion was in view to these people through Paul's preaching. They understood it. The Galatians could visualize this crucifixion because Paul demonstrated it to them. [Commentary on Galatians by David B. Curtis](#)
 - “The Gospel is an announcement of historical events before it is instructions on how to live” [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 66.

Read Galatians 3:2-4 – Hearing with Faith and receiving the Spirit, but now being perfected by the flesh? What is Paul saying?

- Galatians knew they received the Spirit by faith in Christ, so Paul is telling them, you think now you will be perfected in Christ by following Jewish laws? This is his subtle way of introducing “Justification by Faith”. The cardinal doctrine of the [Protestant Reformation](#) started by Martin Luther.
- Vs. 4 - “Did you suffer so many things in vain”? Were the Galatians suffering? Probably, but this is not what the passage is talking about.

- The word “suffer” is the Greek word “pascho” meaning “experience”. The passage could be better translated “Did you experience so many things in vain”? [Commentary on Galatians by David B. Curtis](#)

Read Galatians 3:5-7 – Paul is asking them a question about God who works miracles and supplied you with the Spirit, did He do it b/c of following the law or having faith?

- Vs.6 Paul is using Abraham as an example of Justification by Faith from Genesis 15:6. He believed what God was going to do and God counted that as righteousness. Faith saves us. Nothing else.
 - Keller explains “Abram’s faith was credited to him as righteousness is conferring a legal status. God is treating Abram as righteous and free of condemnation” [“Galatians for You”](#) pg. 72.
- The Jews believed they were the saved people because they had the law. Through the law only the Jews and the practicing [proselytes](#) of the Jewish religion would be saved, or so they thought.
 - Vs. 7 – Paul is saying that being Jewish and practicing those laws has nothing to do with being saved. Righteousness comes through faith. Faith brings salvation. Faith in Christ and the work He did. The faith in the atoning work of Christ is why we are counted as Abraham’s

offspring NOT the Jewish people who were physically descended. It is Spiritual and was never about a physical descendancy.

Read Galatians 3:8-9 -The Gospel was preached to Abraham and he understood and had faith.

- Abraham understood what God was telling him. Through him would come a savior that would reconcile them to God. Genesis chapter 15 tells the story.
 - John 8:56 – “Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad”. – Jesus Christ
- "Abraham is now the prototype of the universal people of faith, not simply the progenitor of the Jewish race. So, it is not necessary to belong to the Jewish race to participate in the blessing of Abraham. All that is necessary is faith like Abraham's." [Commentary on Galatians by David B. Curtis](#)