

Galatians: Paul's Gospel Defense (Part 3)
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Text: Galatians 3:1-14

I. Forsaking the Gospel of justification by faith is foolish!

A. Oh Foolish Galatians!

i. Paul's thesis: 2:15-21.

No one is justified by their observance of the law of Moses; rather, only through faith in Jesus Christ as declared in the Gospel can anyone be justified. And not only do we start by faith, we live this entire life in the flesh by faith.

ii. Key themes:

- Righteousness
- Residence
- Regulations
- Redeemer

Theme #1—Righteousness

Righteousness cannot be gained through the law, but must be gained through the death of Christ.

II. Forsaking the Gospel of justification by faith ignores the reality you've experienced! (3:1-5)

A. Paul goes back to the very beginning of their walk with God...the hearing of the Gospel.

Rhetorical Question #1: 3:2 *Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?*

- Acts 10:44-47
- Ephesians 1:13-14
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5

Answer: *They received the Holy Spirit with power when they believed the Gospel!*

Theme #2—Residence

The point of righteousness is residence—God residing with us! This is the promise of the Holy Spirit!

- Exodus 25:8
- Exodus 29:44-46

*The problem with **residence** is **unrighteousness**:*

- Exodus 33:3
- Exodus 33:13-16
- 2 Corinthians 6:16
- Galatians 3:13-14

Rhetorical Q#2: *“Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by flesh?”*

Have you **experienced** so much for nothing?

Rhetorical Q#3: *Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?*

- i. Why does God move actively among His people?
- ii. Why does God **reside** among us?
- iii. Why does God work miracles [*do works of mighty power*] in our midst?

Because He lives Here! The Kingdom of God has come! And why has it come? Simply because we believed the Gospel!

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we “know” about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- Think about the first encounter you had with believing the Gospel. How did the Holy Spirit's presence affect you?
- In relation to the last question, why did the Holy Spirit come into your life at that time? Was it because of a righteous life, or simple faith in the Gospel?
- Why is it important to continue to experience the Holy Spirit by faith in the gospel now?
- What are some of the ways that believers have tried substituting “flesh” as a means of measuring righteousness?
- Explain the terms which Jerry used to describe themes in Galatians: *righteousness* and *residence*?
- Why is righteousness *by faith* essential to God's residence among us? Why is unrighteousness the problem of residence?
- Paul describes an evident presence of the Holy Spirit in the Galatian church. Do you expect the Spirit's presence to be that evident in our midst as we gather?