

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Galatians 3:1-9

Lesson 5

It was obvious that the Galatians had experienced something in their lives when Paul first visited them; but the Judaizers had come along and were convincing them that their experience was not complete. They needed something else, and that "something else" was obedience to the Law of Moses. These false teachers had bewitched them and turned them into fools. Paul uses a series of questions to challenge their thinking and then draws their attention to the faith of Abraham – the kind of faith that truly makes us right with God.

DAY ONE: Read Galatians 3:1-9

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Galatians 3:1-9 is one section/paragraph division. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *God, Jesus, law, flesh, faith, justify, gospel, and Gentiles*

New to this lesson: *Spirit*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Galatians 3:1-9. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Jesus, Spirit, and Gentiles* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used in verses 5 and 7. Choose one of them and record the conclusion that Paul made and what it was based upon.
4. Choose one of the key words from question 2 and record, by making a list, what the text reveals.

DAY TWO: Read Galatians 3:1-9 again

1. As we study the beginning verses of Galatians 3, it is important to keep in mind Paul's purpose for writing this letter. Record that purpose by writing Galatians 5:1.
2. Paul wrote six rhetorical questions in Galatians 3:1-5. Record them below.
3. Re-write verses 1-5 as if you were writing to a *foolish* friend that was in the same spiritual place as the Galatians.

DAY THREE: Read Galatians 3:1

1. The questions Paul asks the Galatians in Galatians 3:1-5 were meant to be a wakeup call, to stimulate an awareness of the deception they were under, and compel them to recognize the truth. He uses forceful language to accomplish this. They need to understand they were not only *foolish* (this does not mean stupid, but rather senseless, unwise), but *bewitched*. Using a dictionary define the word *bewitched*.
 - a. *Bewitched* has been defined as *fascinated so you have lost your wits*. What does *bewitched* indicate about these believers?
 - b. What was the result of this *bewitching* influence according to Galatians 3:1?
 - 1.) View their disobedience to the truth through the lens of Galatians 1:6. What do you see?
2. We, too, are amazed that these Galatians could be turned away from the heart of the gospel, which is Christ's death on the cross that atoned for our sins, to embrace the works of the law. Yet, even today there are people who are entranced by those who would *pervert the gospel*. We need to be on guard against anyone who brings in another gospel. What did Paul say in Galatians 1:7-9 about this? Answer briefly in your own words.
 - a. If you were approached by someone *perverting the gospel of Christ*, how would you respond?
 - 1.) What would be some indicators that someone was preaching or believing a false *gospel*?

DAY FOUR: Read Galatians 3:2-5

1. Although Paul's questions are rhetorical, asked solely to produce an effect, to challenge them, and not to elicit a reply, how do the following verses answer his questions of Galatians 3:2?

Acts 2:38

Acts 10:44

Romans 10:17

2. Notice the two questions in Galatians 3:3. Observe the following version of Galatians 3:3b: *After beginning in the Spirit, are you now being made complete or trying to obtain your goal through human effort?* What do the following verses say about this?

Philippians 1:6

Colossians 2:(8,9) 10

Challenge: Add another verse that answers the question

3. It is normal to have questions about God and His intentions for us. How does finding answers in Scripture help you?

a. What are the steps you take to find an answer in Scripture?

4. Paul's question in Galatians 3:4 suggests that these believers had endured some persecution as a result of their faith. By abandoning the truth of the gospel, their suffering would be in vain. What do you think was Paul's purpose or hope in bringing this to their attention?

5. Read the New International Version of Galatians 3:5. *Does God give you His Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?* How would the Galatian believers have answered this question?

a. According to this verse, the key to experiencing God's power is to *believe* what you hear in God's Word. How should this knowledge affect you as you read the Bible?

1.) What might hinder you from believing God's Word?

- b. The Lord requires Christians to take Him at His Word, trusting what He says. This opens the door to His working miracles among us. Share a time when the Lord worked a miracle, as you believed His Word.

DAY FIVE: Read Galatians 3:6-9

- 1. Paul now uses Abraham as an example of faith. Abraham is known and revered as the patriarch of the Jewish faith. According to Galatians 3:6 and Genesis 15:1-6, why did Paul use Abraham as an example?

- a. The declaration *Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness* is quoted in three places: Galatians 3:6, Romans 4:3, and James 2:23. It was not because he was great, wealthy, or especially talented that God declared him righteous. What was the reason?

- 1.) How does this encourage you no matter what your talents, gifts, or abilities are (or are not)?

- 2. The Judaizers (false teachers) taught that only the Jews were the *children of Abraham* and that a Gentile had to become a Jew to be a Christian. According to Galatians 3:7, who are the *children of Abraham*?

- 3. Galatians 3:8 NIV reads: *The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."* How does Christ fulfill this promise?

- 4. What is the promise of Galatians 3:9?

- a. What does it mean to you to be *blessed* by God?

DAY SIX: Review Galatians 3:1-9

1. What reasons do you see, from Galatians 3:1-3, that these believers were called *foolish*?
 - a. How can you avoid these errors?
2. Share one thing you learned about the *Spirit* and the *flesh* from Galatians 3:2-5.
3. Explain, as you would to a new believer, how Abraham was justified (declared right with God). Galatians 3:6
 - a. How is Abraham an example for you?
4. In what way do you, as a believer, share the *blessings* of Abraham?
5. Using each of the letters of the word *faith*, form an acronym about faith.
F
A
I
T
H
6. Share a way you have been challenged or blessed by the verses in this lesson.

*What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness,
have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;*

- Romans 9:30 Hallelujah!



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Portions of this lesson have been gratefully adapted from Calvary Chapel (Costa Mesa) Joyful Life Women's Ministries

