

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE

INTRODUCTION: In the first two chapters, Paul essentially is making the case for his authority as an Apostle, detailing his purpose and connection with the church leaders. As we get into chapter 3, Paul begins to deal with the foolishness of the Galatians and emphasizes the way of justification.

Galatians 3:1-9

I. THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE GALATIANS vv.1-5

A. The Galatians had been drawn away from the simple message of Christ and Him crucified. v.1

1. He refers to them as foolish, meaning they have a complete lack of understanding.
2. He then notes that they have been bewitched.
3. He had previously made very clear to them what Jesus had accomplished on the cross.

B. He continues in his questioning of how they received the Spirit. vv.2-3

1. These are rhetorical questions, meaning he is simply trying to make a point.
2. He reminds them that they didn't receive the Spirit by performing works of the law.
3. Paul wants to know why they are trying to perform works of the flesh to reach perfection. *Romans 5:9-11*

C. Paul adds to it that the working of miracles are not done by the working of the law. vv.4-5

1. The word “suffer” comes from the Greek word *pascho* which means “experience”.
2. He emphasizes that not even miracles are done through the works of the law.
3. The presence of the Holy Spirit and the working of miracles go hand in hand.

II. THE EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM vv.6-7

A. Abraham’s righteousness simply came by way of believing God’s word to him.

1. We must remember that in a sense, Abraham himself was a Gentile.
Genesis 12:1, Genesis 15:6
2. The Law of Moses was still hundreds of years away.
3. The Judaizers were most likely quoting Moses, whereas Paul takes them back to the time of Abraham.

B. Those who are of faith are the sons of Abraham. v.7

1. It is no longer by having Jewish lineage.
2. Spiritually speaking, those who are not of faith are not sons of Abraham.
3. The Galatians had been duped into believing that the Jews possessed a higher form of Christianity.

C. This means that as we place our faith in Christ, Jewish believers are not better than us.

1. He eventually brings this point home at the end of this chapter.

Galatians 3:28

2. Jesus addressed the religious leaders regarding their connection with Abraham. *John 8:39-40*

3. Though, not widely implemented, the Jews would bring proselytes into the Jewish faith. *Matthew 23:15*

III. THE PROMISE TO THE NATIONS vv.8-9

A. From the very beginning, God's plan was to bring justification to all nations.

1. For Abraham it was all about faith. *Genesis 15:5-6*

2. God chose to bring this blessing to earth through the lineage of Abraham. *Genesis 12:3*

3. It was also prophetic word given to us in Psalms by the very thoughts of Jesus on the cross. *Psalms 22:27, Hosea 1:10 and 2:23*

B. It is now all about faith in Christ and not assimilating into Jewish law.

1. Paul is once again emphasizing that their works will never justify them.

2. This was also true for the Jews, though they were slower in coming around to it. *Galatians 2:15-16*

3. This was the good news (Gospel) that God had preached to Abraham.

C. Believers share in the same spiritual inheritance as Abraham. v. 9,
Genesis 12:1-3

1. We have the blessing of God leading us.
2. We have the promise of prospering and blessing others as a result.
3. We have the promise of living a full healthy life. *Genesis 25:8, Psalm 91:16*

CONCLUSION: Paul hit straightforwardly that the Galatians were foolish and had been deceived. By delving into the history of the Jews, he was able to demonstrate that even from the beginning, justification came through faith and not by works of the law. It is through that faith in Jesus that all nations can be blessed.