

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Bible Study Series: Living by Faith – Galatians

Lesson 12. Works of the Law vs. Faith – Gal. 3:1-4

Pastor Phillip M Way

- I. Bewitched – vs. 1
 - A. Foolish Galatians
 1. Laziness and careless thinking – 1 Tim. 6:9; Titus 3:3
 - a. A failure of faith leads to a failure of understanding – Luke 24:25-26
 - b. From acceptance to defection – Gal. 4:14; 1:6-7
 2. A sinful neglect of divine resources
 3. Self-oriented emotions vs. Scripture-oriented minds – Eph. 4:14; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10
 4. Grace to law – faith to works – Christ to ceremony – freedom to bondage
 - B. Feeling over Facts
 1. Charmed or fascinated in order to be misled
 2. Willing victims who chose self-pleasing works, being convinced that faith is not enough
 3. It was Clear – what clouded your view?
 - C. It is Finished!
 1. Crucified – perfect passive participle – a historical fact that has continuing results
 2. “No ritual, ceremony, regulation, or any other thing devised or accomplished by man can pick up where the cross leaves off – because the cross never leaves off.” – JMacArthur
 3. “A supplemented Christ is a supplanted Christ.” – Williams Hendricksen
- II. By Works of By Faith? – vs. 2
 - A. How Did You Receive the Spirit?
 1. Trusted and Sealed – Eph. 1:13-14
 2. Hearing and Believing – Rom. 10:17 (Col. 2:6-7); Acts 15:7-8
 3. Assurance – Rom. 8:16; 1 John 3:24; 4:13
 - B. Not by Works (no second blessings) – Rom. 8:1-4
- III. Begun in the Spirit – vs. 3
 - A. Improving of the Spirit’s Work – how can you think that your weak, imperfect, still sinful flesh could improve on what the Divine Spirit of God began in you? – Phil. 1:6
 - B. “The validity of good works in God’s sight depends on whose power they are done and for whose glory.” – JM
 - C. “Even the best and most acceptable works do not increase our standing before God or elevate us to a higher spiritual status.” – JM
- IV. Was It All in Vain? – vs. 4
 - A. You Have Suffered in Trusting Christ
 - B. “I hope what I have heard about you is not true, or that you have come back to your senses.” – JM – 1 Cor. 15:1-11

Cross References

1 Timothy 6:9

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Titus 3:3

3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

Luke 24:25-26

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

Galatians 4:14

14 And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

Galatians 1:6-7

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Ephesians 4:14

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Romans 12:1-2

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Ephesians 4:23

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Colossians 3:10

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Romans 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Colossians 2:6-7

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Acts 15:7-8

7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,

Romans 8:16

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1 John 3:24

24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 4:13

13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Romans 8:1-4

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

15 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11 Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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