

SERMON OUTLINE

Is it by Faith or by Works?

Galatians 3:1-14

The Bible teaches the fact that salvation has always been by grace alone.

(Acts 15:6-12; Genesis 15:1-6)

How does Paul use this teaching to draw the Galatian church back in step with the truth of the gospel?

By drawing attention to the grace found in the Galatians' own story...

(Galatians 3:1-5)

By drawing attention to the grace found in the story of Abraham...

(Galatians 3:6-9)

By drawing attention to the grace found in Jesus, who literally became a curse... (Galatians 3:10-14)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- "Becoming members of God's people and heirs of God's promises does not come by observing the Jewish law, but by placing one's faith in Christ." – Geoff Ziegler, *Galatians Knowing the Bible Series*, Crossway.
- How does Paul's appeal to their experience in the five questions of Galatians 3:1-5 validate what he argued for in Galatians 2:15-16?
- Paul appeals to their suffering (Galatians 3:4), their experience (Galatians 3:4-5) and Christ's death in Galatians 2:21. Why? How does all that add up to expose the foolishness and futility of human effort?
- How does the example of Abraham in Galatians 3:6-9 extend Paul's argument? How is our faith in Christ a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham?
- How do each of these four Old Testament references in Galatians 3:10-13 expose the problem of trying to be right with God by trusting in one's ability to keep his law?
- How does Jesus solve this problem for us in Galatians 3:13-14?
- How have you faced that tension of trusting in Christ's work or your own? What "Christian" rules seem to be important in your circle? Why?
- Have you ever promoted compliance to such "Christian" rules over the gospel? What were the results?