

Remain in the Blessings of the Spirit Galatians 3:1-9

Included Gentiles in blessing of Abraham
Since by faith with Abraham, by faith now
All who share his faith included in blessing

I. Concern for Their Departure - 3:1

1. "Foolish Galatians, who bewitched you"
"Foolish" not word for lacking intelligence
Word speaks of failure to use good logic
"Bewitched" acting as if under a spell
2. You are out of harmony with the Truth
They heard truth about the work of Christ
"Set forth" means public proclamation
Christ's crucifixion was clearly taught
Departure was not a lack of knowledge
Allowed legalists to dupe them

II. Consider Your Experience - 3:2-5

1. Paul appealed to their experience
Did you receive the Spirit by law or faith
Did the Spirit indwell by obedience to law
Did salvation come by obedience to the law
Or did the Spirit make you alive by faith
2. Does completion come by your effort - 3
What is meant by "completion"?
Do you not need the Spirit in your growth
Illogical to think you can do it on your own
Do you really think you can keep the law
The efforts of our flesh cannot please God
3. Did you suffer for no reason - 4
As believers the Jews persecuted you
Now you embrace the persecutors teaching
Your suffering becomes an empty experience
4. Did Law bring God's power to you - 5
God gave new life through work of His Spirit
God did miracles in your midst - Acts 14:3, 8-11
Was that because you kept the law
Faith in Christ brought God's miracles
Consider what God has done in your life

III. Compare with Scripture - 6-9

1. God's covenant with Abraham - 6
Promises to Abraham was by faith
Covenant made before law was given
It was made before circumcision - Gen. 15
Circumcision was added in Gen. 17:9, 10
2. Declared righteous by faith alone - 6
Gen. 15:5, 6; Before circumcision - Rom. 4:1-4
3. His true children follow him in faith - 7
With God it is always by faith - Rom. 2:28, 29
All who share his faith are his true children
4. Gentiles included in Abraham by faith - 8
Blessing included Gentiles - Gen. 12:3
God's plan was to include Gentiles by faith
This message is really not something new
God's promise preceded circumcision & law
5. God's blessing comes by faith - 9
God accepted Abraham on basis of faith