



Week 5: Galatians 3:1-5

### **GOSPEL FINISH**

Chapter 3 of Galatians marks a turning point. Paul's tone sharpens as he leaps to defend the true nature of the gospel. The Galatians, he charges, have demonstrably strayed. They began their journey of faith in Christ, yet now they seek completion through their own works. But listen closely, Galatians! The path to salvation remains the same from beginning to end: it is a journey of faith, not a race won by effort.

### **THE SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 3:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup> Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so many things in vain-- if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup> Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith--

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<sup>f</sup> **bewitched** – to cast a spell upon someone so as to wreak havoc upon their lives.

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## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 5

### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Consider back to the time before you were a follower of Christ. What kinds of things drove or motivated you? How did those things change over time?
2. What are the biggest changes that knowing Christ has brought into your life?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. Before getting started, underline or circle the terms, "faith," and "Spirit" in this week's passage.
4. In this section of Galatians, Paul turns from autobiographical details back to the Galatians wanderings to a different gospel. Based on all you've studied so far, in general what are the errors that the Galatian churches seem to be making. What verses in Galatians 1-2 point to those errors?
5. In Galatians 3:1, Paul directs his readers to remember that before them, Christ was "publicly portrayed as crucified." We can assume this refers to the content of the preaching of Paul during the initial evangelism of Galatia, and that this was the heartbeat of Paul's message. Why do you think Paul calls the Galatian Christians to remember this?
6. Considering the previous question, do you ever re-imagine and personalize the work of Jesus in your life? How might this be beneficial?
7. Paul uses the term "foolish" twice to describe the Galatian believers (verses 1, 3). In what ways is it foolish to add to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

8. Beginning in verse 2, Paul asks a series of questions to his readers. Complete the chart below to summarize what he is asking.

QUESTION	OPTIONS
<b>V 2 - How did you receive the Spirit?</b>	
<b>V 3 - How did you start your Christian</b>	
<b>V 4 - Why have you suffered?</b>	
<b>V 5 - How are the miracles happening?</b>	

9. What appears to be his point through these questions?
  
10. Consider verse 4, and Paul's allusion to Galatian believers' suffering. If the Galatians were to pursue this different gospel and so abandon the Spirit, what do you think would happen to the suffering their facing.
  
11. In Galatians 3:2, 5 the term, "hearing with faith" is used twice. What does that mean? What does it look like to hear without faith?
  
12. After beginning our Christian lives by faith, most of us at one time or another follow the Galatians and fall into the trap of relying on our own efforts. Why do you think this happens? According to Paul, what's the answer to escaping that trap?
  
13. Is there a specific area in your life in which you are trying to live for the Lord apart from his power?