

Believing in the Promises

Galatians 3:1-14 - NCBC, Sunday April 30,
2017

Main Point: **Faith inherits the spiritual blessings that legalism cannot earn.**

- The Curse of Legalism (1, 10-12)
 - Legalism destroys the power of the cross of Christ (1)
 - Legalism subjects you to the curse of unattainable perfection (10-12)
- The Blessing of God's Spirit (2-5, 14)
 - Receiving His Presence (2-3, 14)
 - Experiencing His Power (4-5)
- The Blessing of God's Justification (6-14)
 - Faith-credited righteousness (6)
 - Faith-obtained adoption (7)
 - Faith-based unity (8-9)
 - Faith-secured redemption (13)

Application: **Hear and believe God's gospel of promise.**

Opening Announcements:

BCTC thank you, testimonies, and Counseling update

<<Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus>>



Those lyrics express my heart's prayer this morning: Father – please grant us grace to trust you more. Like the desperate father in **Mark 9**, “I believe, but help my unbelief.”¹ Lord – please increase our faith this morning. Please turn our hearts away from our own self-reliance – and open our eyes to behold your grace in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Aren't you thankful for Sunday mornings?

Now I realize it can be a real challenge sometimes to get everyone out of the house with good attitudes and still arrive to church on time in the morning. I'm especially proud of all our young parents who faithfully help children get ready to worship on Sunday mornings.

Why all the effort? Why do we gather together with other Jesus-followers on Sunday mornings like today?

¹ Mark 9:24

The answer is for God's glory. We gather to worship God – and God is praised and exalted every time humble hearts worship and adore Him.

So thank you for making the effort to be here this morning. In fact – turn to the person beside you and just thank them for making the effort to be here this morning.

Yes – Thanks for putting a priority on the glory of God. We don't gather for the purpose of self-improvement or education. We gather to worship. To respond to all that God is and all that He has done with all that we are. And through our worship – God receives the glory.

So let's continue our worship now by opening our Bibles to **Galatians chapter 3**.



If you don't have a Bible with you this morning, please just raise your hand and one of our ushers will gladly give you a Bible. I believe you will find **Galatians 3**

bookmarked for you in the Bibles we're handing out this morning.

And while you're turning to **Galatians 3**, let me highlight a very special Congregational Prayer service that we have planned for this Weds evening at 6:30pm.

Our elders have become convicted in recent months about the limited amount of time we spend praying together. Dependent Prayer is the primary expression of faith. And without faith it is impossible to please God.² So we must grow our hearts in this worship of prayer for His greater glory through New Castle Bible Church.

Yesterday I was pondering the apostle John's vision of the heavenly throne room from **Revelation chapter 5** and do you remember what each of the 24 elders have in their golden bowls as they worship Jesus Christ together?

It says the elders are each holding *golden bowls full of incense – which are the prayers of the saints*.³

Translation – the prayers of Christ-followers are throne-room perfume! This Weds evening our entire church family is invited to join us over in the Intersection Building at 6:30pm as we take an hour together to worship the Lord in Prayer. Filling up the golden bowls of heaven with the sweet-smelling aroma of praise, confession, awe, and delight in the majesty of our God.

² Hebrews 11:6

³ Revelation 5:8

We will start promptly at 6:30pm, and be done by 7:30. It will be a very special hour of music and prayer centered on God and His glorious attributes.

So please plan to join us as we set aside the first Weds nights of our summer months to re-center our hearts back on dependent prayer together.



Now please stand with me in honor of God's Holy Word as I read from the **English Standard Translation** starting in **Galatians 3, verse 1:**

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

you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—⁶just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

⁷Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

¹⁰For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” ¹²But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” ¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—¹⁴so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

So reads God's Word. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.⁴

⁴ Galatians 2:20

This Easter we were reminded of the wonder of God's gift of justification by faith alone. To be justified means to be declared righteous – fully accepted by God and welcomed into His family.

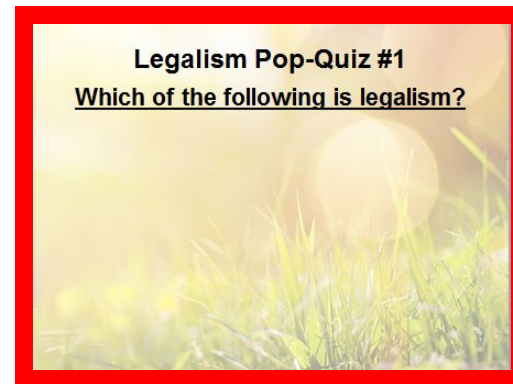
Only faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ can unite us with His righteousness – so that, like a hand in a glove – Jesus Himself lives through us and fulfills the law on our behalf.

Legalism, or the works of the law as Paul says it, only nullifies the grace of God.⁵ It's no more spiritually powerful than a mechanical hand that is merely controlled by the whims of others.

Merely trying harder to improve ourselves spiritually only leads us to slavery. And praise the Lord - Jesus came to set us free from the bondage of legalism.

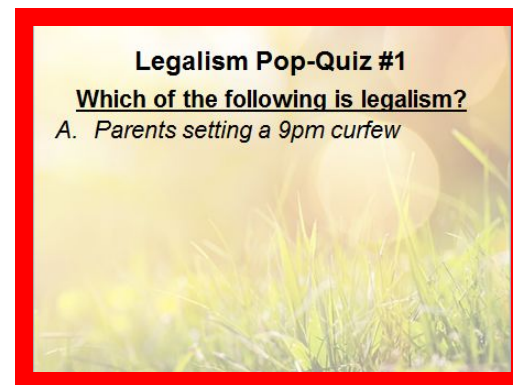
So I thought we should start today's sermon with a Legalism Pop-Quiz.

⁵ Galatians 2:21



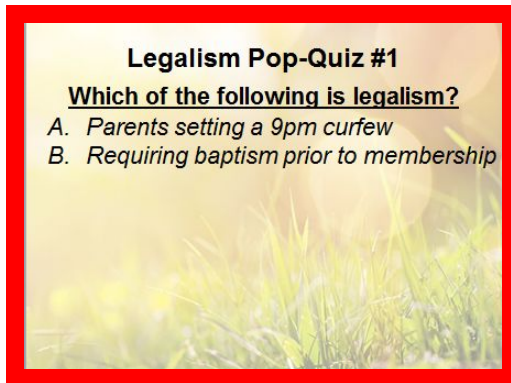
Good news... This quiz is multiple guess, and it's open book! But don't be fooled, because legalism is often misunderstood in the church today. So take your time – because the purity of God's gospel is at stake in how you respond!

Which of the following is legalism?



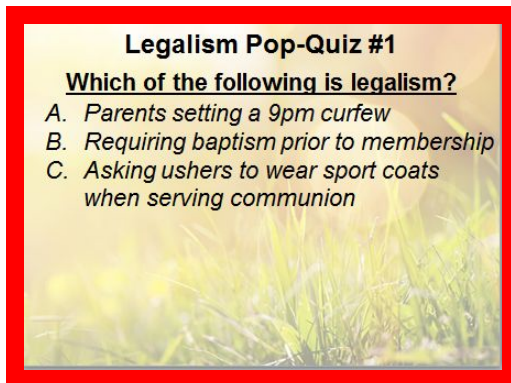
A) Parents setting a 9pm curfew.

Or,



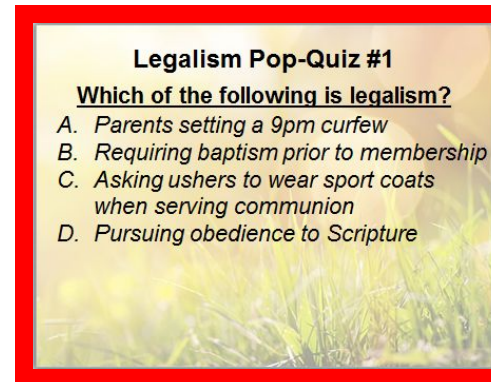
B) A church requiring believer's baptism prior to church membership.

Or,

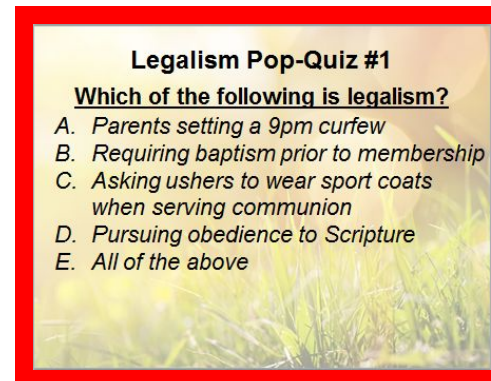


C) Asking ushers to wear sport coats when serving communion, or preachers to wear ties when

preaching, or ladies to wear hats or dresses to church.... is this legalism? Or,



D) Someone who is fervently pursuing a life of obedience to Scripture, or



E) Maybe it's all of the above? Or,

Legalism Pop-Quiz #1

Which of the following is legalism?

- A. *Parents setting a 9pm curfew*
- B. *Requiring baptism prior to membership*
- C. *Asking ushers to wear sport coats when serving communion*
- D. *Pursuing obedience to Scripture*
- E. *All of the above*
- F. *None of the above*

F) **None of the above.** (Don't you just hate seeing these options on test questions!)

So which of the listed options best illustrates legalism?

I won't embarrass you by having you share your answer publicly – but jot down your answer on your notes page.

Ready for the next question?

I can tell some of you aren't satisfied with these options ... so just because I love you so much, let's add one more choice,

Legalism Pop-Quiz #1

Which of the following is legalism?

- A. *Parents setting a 9pm curfew*
- B. *Requiring baptism prior to membership*
- C. *Asking ushers to wear sport coats when serving communion*
- D. *Pursuing obedience to Scripture*
- E. *All of the above*
- F. *None of the above*
- G. *Impossible to tell*

G) **It's impossible to tell** whether any of these are legalistic or not.

Now if you select,

Legalism Pop-Quiz #1

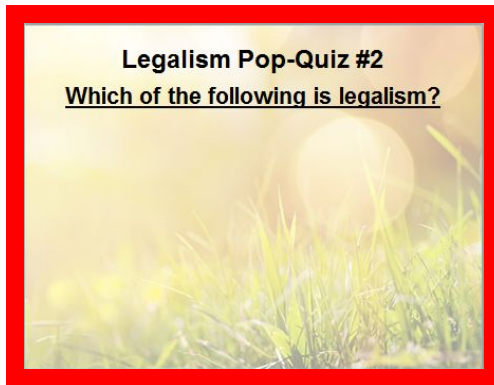
Which of the following is legalism?

- A. *Parents setting a 9pm curfew*
- B. *Requiring baptism prior to membership*
- C. *Asking ushers to wear sport coats when serving communion*
- D. *Pursuing obedience to Scripture*
- E. *All of the above*
- F. *None of the above*
- G. ***Impossible to tell***

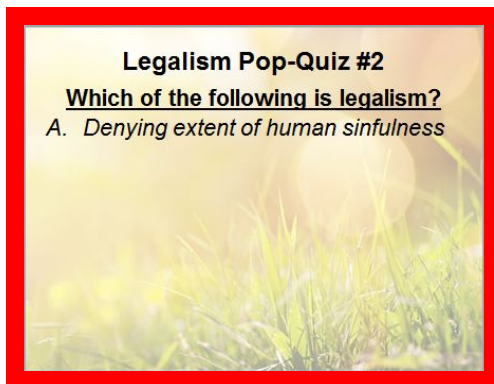
G) you'd be correct. It's actually **impossible to tell** whether any of these are legalistic or not – without knowing the intentions of the heart behind such actions, right?

Because legalism is a matter of faith – it's a matter of the heart – it is actually quite deceptive. I believe it's far more prevalent in my life, and in yours, that we might believe at first blush.

So let's try one more question on our legalism pop-quiz this morning:

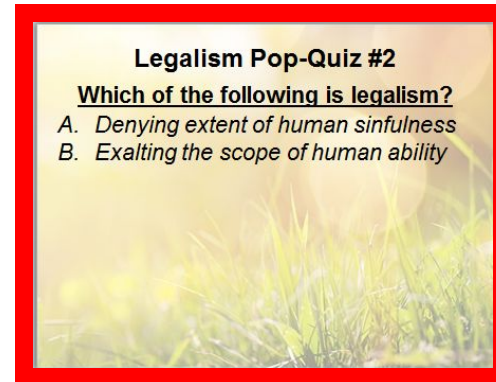


Question #2. Which of the following is legalism?



A) Legalism is denying the extent of my sinfulness.
Legalism happens anytime I discount my own depravity.

Or,



B) Legalism is exalting my own spiritual ability.
Legalism is pride – trusting in my own righteousness.

Or,

Legalism Pop-Quiz #2

Which of the following is legalism?

- A. Denying extent of human sinfulness
- B. Exalting the scope of human ability
- C. More focus on external than internal

C) Legalism focuses more on externals than internal matters of the heart.

Or,

Legalism Pop-Quiz #2

Which of the following is legalism?

- A. Denying extent of human sinfulness
- B. Exalting the scope of human ability
- C. More focus on external than internal
- D. Teaching human customs as divine

D) Teaching human traditions as if they were the words of God.

Or maybe,

Legalism Pop-Quiz #2

Which of the following is legalism?

- A. Denying extent of human sinfulness
- B. Exalting the scope of human ability
- C. More focus on external than internal
- D. Teaching human customs as divine
- E. Seeking God's (or others') favor by what we do or don't do

E) Seeking God's or other's favor by what I do or don't do.

Or,

Legalism Pop-Quiz #2

Which of the following is legalism?

- A. Denying extent of human sinfulness
- B. Exalting the scope of human ability
- C. More focus on external than internal
- D. Teaching human customs as divine
- E. Seeking God's (or others') favor by what we do or don't do
- F. Compromising God's sufficiency

How about letter F) Legalism is compromising God's sufficiency.

For kicks and giggles, let's add a G) and H) option as well.

Legalism Pop-Quiz #2

Which of the following is legalism?

- A. Denying extent of human sinfulness
- B. Exalting the scope of human ability
- C. More focus on external than internal
- D. Teaching human customs as divine
- E. Seeking God's (or others') favor by what we do or don't do
- F. Compromising God's sufficiency
- G. All of the above
- H. None of the above

G) **All of these** describe what legalism is. Or H) **None of these** describe what legalism is.

What is your answer to question #2?

Hopefully this one was a bit more obvious. The correct answer is,

Legalism Pop-Quiz #2

Which of the following is legalism?

- A. Denying extent of human sinfulness
- B. Exalting the scope of human ability
- C. More focus on external than internal
- D. Teaching human customs as divine
- E. Seeking God's (or others') favor by what we do or don't do
- F. Compromising God's sufficiency
- G. All of the above**
- H. None of the above

G) **All of these statements** describe legalism. You see legalism is about what we are trusting in. Legalism is a matter of the heart before it's ever a matter of external behavior or ritual.

So let's try to capture the meaning of legalism in a simple definition:

Legalism Defined

Legalism is attempting good without fully relying on Christ's sufficiency.

Legalism is adding to the Gospel.

Legalism occurs whenever faith is not the engine of obedience. ~ Piper

Legalism is attempting good without fully relying on Christ's sufficiency.

Now just let that sink in for a moment.

Whenever I attempt to do any spiritual good – apart from faith in Christ's righteousness or finished work on my behalf – I've rejected God's grace and turned to the false gospel of legalism.⁶

⁶ Galatians 1:6-7

This means that it's quite possible for the anti-legalist to be legalistic. Because legalism is far deeper than mere compliance with do's and don'ts. Legalism exposes the object of our faith to be more than the person and work of Christ. The legalist always adds something (usually his own effort of some kind) to God's Gospel.

The legalist says Christ's death on the cross for me is a great beginning – but when it comes to how I handle stress, or how I fix my marriage problems, or how I really grow in Christ – now I have to look to something I do or don't do in order to be spiritually acceptable. I really like how Pastor John Piper describes this. He says,

“Legalism occurs whenever faith is not the engine of obedience.”⁷

That's helpful. Because two people can attend the Weds night prayer service – both with eager smiles on their faces – but one can be a legalist and the other a thankful believer in grace. It's often impossible to tell *from the outside* which is which. But the Christian is living by grace, motivated by gratitude while the legalist is living by law, motivated by a fear – always somehow looking to his own abilities or efforts to be good enough.

So please don't miss this young people: Legalism is not obedience. Legalism is obeying or following the rules the wrong way.

⁷ <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/legalism-or-love-religious-or-radical>

The opposite of legalism is not license – throwing off all rules and biblical commands. No. The opposite of legalism is “the obedience of faith.”⁸ The obedience that is produced from our union with Christ by faith in His finished work on our behalf.

Only faith in Jesus can empower the kind of obedience that pleases God. Because faith actually unites us with Christ – so that His life and His righteousness becomes ours – and He fulfills the righteous requirements of the law on our behalf – leaving us as joint heirs together of His own spiritual blessings with our Heavenly Father forever.

In other words,



Faith inherits the spiritual blessings that legalism cannot earn.

⁸ Romans 1:5, 16:26

Legalism is a fake. It can never deliver on its promises for life and freedom. True spiritual blessing only comes when you believe in God's promises – and thereby inherit spiritual blessings that legalism could never earn.

Let's first consider how Paul describes the,



The Curse of Legalism (1, 10-12)

In **verse 1** Paul is emotionally flabbergasted at the Galatians' proud departure from faith alone in Christ.

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?

The word for foolish here doesn't mean that they were unintelligent or ignorant. Rather it means they were just mentally lazy and careless in their spiritual understanding. They were not using their heads and thinking through the curse of legalism!

In other words, it was like the Galatians had become hypnotized under the spell of some kind of emotional

flattery to their pride. Instead of their minds being renewed by the Gospel – they had allowed their emotions to carry them away into a man-centered faith in their Jewish culture for their spiritual acceptance.

But notice how Paul responds,

It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

Translation – Through my clear preaching – you all experienced together – in a public way – how I portrayed Christ's substitutionary death for the forgiveness of your sins. You saw clearly how faith in Christ frees you from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.⁹ I preached nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.¹⁰

How then have you allowed yourself to believe that you might attempt real spiritual good in your own efforts?

Don't you realize that,

⁹ Acts 13:38-39

¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 2:2

The Curse of Legalism (1, 10-12)

- *Legalism destroys the power of the cross of Christ (1)*

Legalism nullifies the power of the cross of Christ (1)

Anytime you look to human means for your righteousness – you’re saying the work of Christ on the cross wasn’t quite good enough. It didn’t take you quite far enough. It only gave you a good start – but now it’s up to you to make good with what He has given you.

This is the legalistic lie of “God helps those who help themselves.” Never believe this popular lie, church.

Biblical truth is this: Every one of us is dead in our sins, and alienated from the life of God. We deserve the punishment of hell because of our proud rebellion against our holy Creator.

The only biblical reason for our salvation is God’s sovereign grace.

By God’s loving rescue – all for His eternal glory – whoever believes in Jesus is crucified together with

Christ – so that the life he now lives he lives by faith in the Son of God – who loves him, and gave His life for him.

No matter how long you follow Christ - you never get beyond the cross. For the cross of Christ is where your sins were forgiven and Christ’s righteousness was put onto your account.

Trying to legalistically obey religious commands apart from full reliance on Christ’s sufficiency is a curse. Because it,

The Curse of Legalism (1, 10-12)

- *Legalism destroys the power of the cross of Christ (1)*
- *Legalism subjects you to the curse of unattainable perfection (10-12)*

subjects you to the curse of unattainable perfection (10-12)

Skip down to **verse 10** where Paul argues,

For all who rely on works of the law [or we might say human effort] are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the Law, and do them.”

Paul quotes from **Deuteronomy 27:26** and his point is simple – Failure to obey the law in just one point brings the entire curse of the law upon you!¹¹ A holy God requires absolute and complete perfection for acceptance.

So here's the curse: there's no possible way you can live up to all of God's standards. No exceptions are legally permissible in a judicial economy of holiness.

Justification is just not possible by law-keeping.

Verse 11,

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

Here Paul quotes from **Habakkuk 2:4**. Since justification cannot come from obedience to the law, justification – spiritual life– must be by faith alone. Life can only come as our faith unites us with the One who can deliver us from the judgment of God.

Faith and legalism are mutually exclusive. **Verse 12** says it clearly,

But the law is not of faith, rather, "The one who does them shall live by them."

If you are going to rely on something within you to be good enough to gain God's favor – then you're going to

¹¹ James 2:10

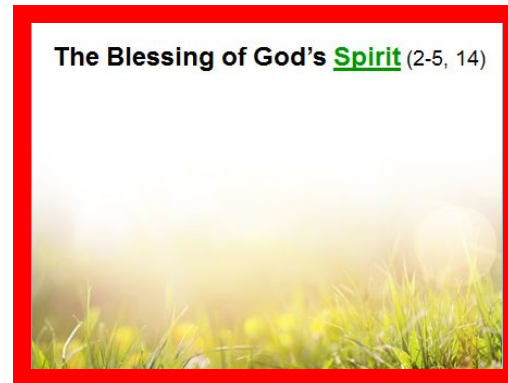
have to constantly measure yourself against the yardstick of God's law. The very measure that God gave to show us how sinful we really are.¹²

Loved ones – Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law – flee from your self-promoting reliance upon your own efforts – and believe on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for your life and acceptance with God.

Now let's go back to **verse 2** for a moment and quickly contrast the blessings of faith with the curses of legalism.

Paul is so blown away by the Galatians thoughtless submission to the law's condemnation, that he asks 6 different questions in 6 verses.

And these questions are aimed at the highest blessing of justification by faith,

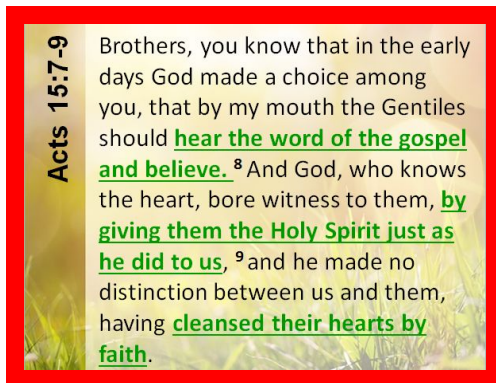


The Blessing of God's Spirit (2-5, 14)

¹² Galatians 3:19, Romans 7:7

Now you must understand that in the Scripture – receiving the Spirit is the evidence of salvation.¹³ In **John 3:5-7** we are born again by the Spirit. And it is the Holy Spirit that confirms that we are children of God in **Romans 8:16**.

In **Acts 15:7-9**, Peter argues for the church's full acceptance of Gentile believers saying,



Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

¹³ C.f. Acts 10:44-45

Notice how receiving the Holy Spirit is clearly connected to saving faith.

There is no salvation apart from receiving the Holy Spirit.¹⁴

According to **Ephesians 1:13-14**, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee, or down-payment of our eternal salvation.

So no wonder Paul argues against the legalist in **verse 2**,

Let me ask you only this: This is the one thing I want to find out from you Galatians who now believe that Christians must follow Jewish customs in addition to believing in Christ to truly be accepted ...

Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

How did you,

¹⁴ Remember in **the first 6 verses of Acts 19** when Paul visited Ephesus and found 12 legalists who claimed to be disciples of Christ, but had not even heard of the Holy Spirit? Paul preached Christ to them, and then they were saved, baptized, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Blessing of God's Spirit (2-5, 14)

- *Receiving His Presence* (2-3, 14)



Receive the blessing of His Presence (2-3, 14)

Because whatever you did to receive the Holy Spirit is what is required for your justification. You can't separate the two.

Did you do something special to receive God's Spirit? Did you take some classes? Or maybe you got baptized – is that when you received the Spirit? Or did you have to become a member of the church first? Or take communion? Or speak in tongues? Or seek peace? That's it – you found peace through a process of confession and restitution – and that's when you finally received the Spirit, right?

Galatians – I'm asking you this one question one which the entire argument hangs – What work did you do yourself in order to receive this highest evidence of God's favor and acceptance of you?

The answer was so obvious that **verse 3** against incites Paul's scorn – *Are you so foolish?*

Of course they received the Spirit by simply just believing in what they had heard. They were saved simply by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁵

Church – now that Christ has ascended to the Father¹⁶ - any doctrine that separates the gift of God's Spirit from the gift of justification is accursed. Anyone who teaches that there is a second blessing of God's Spirit available only for those who have enough faith, is preaching a legalistic gospel. To be justified is to be born again by the Spirit of God. If someone hasn't received the Spirit of God – they don't need a second blessing – they need to be saved!

So then, the second half of **verse 3**,

Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

What God starts, He always finishes.¹⁷ Only a fool could believe that what is begun by God's Spirit could be finished by human effort.

Legalism separates obedience from the source of its real power. But hearing the promises of God with faith continually supplies a heart with the Holy Spirit Himself, according to **verse 5**.

¹⁵ Acts 16:31.

¹⁶ John 7:39, 16:7, 20:22; Acts 1:8, 2:38

¹⁷ Philippians 1:6

So that believers in Christ don't just receive the Spirit's presence, but also



Experience His Transforming Power (4-5)

The word for “suffer” in **verse 4** likely just means to “experience” in the context. So Paul’s asking them a real question here –

Did you experience the Holy Spirit making you new, uniting you with Christ, and taking up residence in your soul ...all for nothing?

Is the hand of Christ living in you the glove – and you still believe that you must trust your glove for your obedience?

If indeed it was in vain? Paul’s been hitting them hard – so now he expresses some hope that they aren’t so far gone that they can’t repent and regain a pure faith in Christ alone.

But we must reckon with Paul’s teaching here – if you’ve received the abundant generosity of God’s Spirit supplied to you from God the Father – and you’ve experienced his miracles, or dynamite-power in your life – you have to be honest with yourself – did you earn God’s Spirit by something you did? Or is God’s Spirit a gift of undeserved grace to you – whom you received merely by believing the Gospel you heard preached to you?

The blessing of God’s Spirit is the greatest experiential argument for justification by faith alone... for our personal experience with God’s Spirit argues forcibly against any deserving or human initiation. God’s Spirit – just like our justification – is entirely a gift of His Sovereign grace.

Now in **verse 6** Paul’s argument for justification by faith alone moves from the Galatian’s personal experience with the Holy Spirit to their understanding of their Father Abraham.

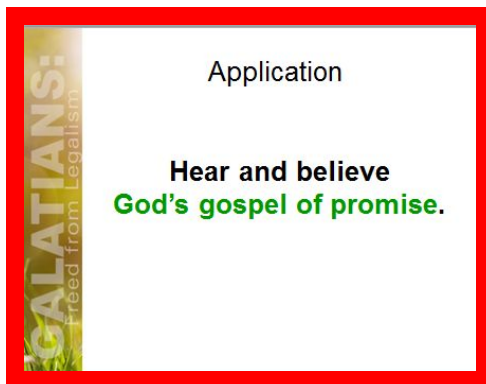
But for that we’ll have to wait until next week, because our time is gone today. However I believe our main point is already clear enough.



Faith inherits spiritual blessings that legalism cannot earn.

No amount of human effort or cultural conformity can earn you the gift of God's Spirit. It would be easier for a person to physically give birth to themselves, than for our human effort to merit the blessing of God's indwelling Spirit with us.

So then I must beg of you –



Please hear and believe God's gospel of promise.

We far too often seek to do what we believe is right in our own power, do we not?

Today is a day of salvation. Legalism is far more pervasive in our hearts than we might care to admit. So we must hear the promise of God and believe it.

Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved!

Turn from just giving lip-service to Christ while you trust the latest fads or popular wisdom of this world. Cry out to Jesus – believing that He is all that you have – and that He is fully enough for you.

Let's pray.

<<All I have is Christ>>



Let's pray our Benediction now as we are dismissed,

Benediction



*Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, ...according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. **Romans 16:25-27***

Recommended Resources on Believing in the Promises:

- Genesis 12:2-3; 15:6; 18:18
- Deuteronomy 21:22-23; 27:26
- Habakkuk 2:4
- John 8:33, 39; 20:22
- Acts 2:38-39
- Romans 1:16-17; 4:3, 9-10, 16, 20-22; 10:14-17
- Ephesians 1:13
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13

- <http://www.desiringgod.org/labs/the-victory-that-overcomes-the-world>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/curse-hanging-tree.html>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/curse-of-the-law.html>

- *Faith Alone*, RC Sproul
- *Forgotten God*, Francis Chan
- *He Who Gives Life*, Cole

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read Galatians 3:7-9. Who was Abraham, and why did Paul appeal to this man's life and faith in his argument against legalism?
2. Compare Galatians 3:10 (c.f. Deuteronomy 27:26) to James 2:10. Is it possible for you to keep God's law? Why or why not?
3. Sing the children's song together, "Father Abraham, had many sons...." How does that simple song portray the truth of Galatians 3:1-14? What does it mean to be a child of Abraham?

4. Read Galatians 3:1-5. How many times does Paul reference God's Spirit? Why is this emphasis so significant to Paul? What is the significance of the Holy Spirit to your approach to spiritual growth and Christian living?
5. Explain Galatians 3:12 (c.f. Leviticus 18:5) and discuss together the inconsistency of all religious legalism.
6. Read Galatians 3:2. Why is legalism so attractive to us after we've received God's Spirit? Spend time praying specifically for one another to walk by or be led by, or be controlled by God's Spirit. (C.f. Galatians 5:16, 25)