

One great verse

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

Four great theological questions

1. What is the meaning of **God's love**?
2. What is the meaning of **Christ's work**?
3. What is the meaning of **our response**?
4. What is the meaning of **our hope**?

Four points of tension



1. God's love?

Search & Rescue

Guide & Enable

2. Christ's work?

What Christ has done
FOR us!

What Christ is doing
IN and THROUGH us!

3. Our responsibility?

Our PASSIVE reception
by FAITH!

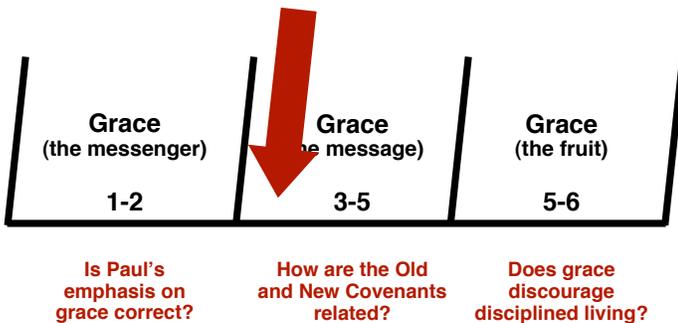
Our ACTIVE participation
in FAITHFULNESS!

4. Our hope?

ETERNITY (heaven)

NOW (earth)

The letter to the Galatians



Galatians 3

“1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?”

1.
*The Gospel is Cross centered
not Law centered.*

The Judaizers

Paul's teaching

Jesus' life

Jesus' death

The emphasis of the Gospels

The Cross and Resurrection



The Cross and Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

The emphasis of the Epistles

— Epistles

Galatians 3

“2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?”

2.
The reception of Christ's Spirit is by Faith not by the works of the Law.

The Judaizers **Paul's teaching**
Performance **Faith**

What must I repent of to become a Christian?

	Change mind about Christ and self	Be willing to turn from all known sins at conversion	Be willing to keep on turning from all known sins	Turn from all known sins	Keep on turning from all known sins
Holiness	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arminian	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Calvinistic	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Lutheran	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Radical grace	Yes	No	No	No	No

Hebrews 6:1

“Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works** and of faith toward God,”

Before the Cross
Sin separated mankind from God



At the Cross
The sin bearer was removed



After the Cross
Disbelief separated mankind from God



Galatians 3

“² This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Paul’s teaching

- 1. *The Spirit comes as a result of faith.*
- 2. *The Spirit regenerates the elect.*

The reformed view

- 1. *The Spirit regenerates the elect.*
- 2. *The Spirit gives the gift of:*
 - *faith in Christ - the ability to believe.*
 - *faithfulness to the Law - the ability to obey.*

Galatians 3

“² This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

The criteria for receiving the Spirit in some groups:

- 1. *Accept Christ as Lord and Savior.*
- 2. *Be water baptized by immersion.*
- 3. *Repent of all known sins.*
- 4. *Pray for the gift of the Spirit.*
- 5. *Wait and watch.*
- 6. *Have others lay hands on you.*
- 7. *Total surrender (faith) to the Spirit.*
- 7. *Praise and worship.*

Galatians 3

“³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain - if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?”

3.

The miraculous work of the Spirit is by Faith not by the works of the Law.

The Judaizers

Paul’s teaching

You are responsible for it

You are a spectator to it

How are we to see miracles today?

The focus is on YOUR faith and will

The focus is on God’s time and will

Faith becomes a work as do our words and actions in bringing about a miracle.

Trust God to work and praise Him when miracles happen.

Galatians 3

“⁶ Even so Abraham *believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.* ⁷ Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, *All the nations shall be blessed in you.* ⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.”

4.

The sons of Abraham are identified by Faith not by the works of the Law.

The Judaizers

Paul’s teaching

Circumcision

Faith

What does it mean to inherit the promises?

Romans 4

“¹⁶ For this reason it is by faith, that it might be in accordance with grace, in order that the promise may be certain **to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,** ¹⁷ (as it is written, "A father of many nations have I made you") in the sight of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.”

Be a part of Israel

Be a part of the Body of Christ.

Circumcision was the sign of Abraham’s children

Faith was the sign of Abraham’s children

Galatians 3

“¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, *Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.* ¹¹ Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, *The righteous man shall live by faith.* ¹² However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, *He who practices them shall live by them.*”

5.

Righteousness is only possible by Faith not by the works of the Law.

The Judaizers

Paul’s teaching

Christ’s work in and through us

Christ’s work for us

Tutor (Mirror)



The Law

Surrogate (Substitute)



Jesus

Paraclete (Comforter)



The Spirit

Galatians 3

“¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us - for it is written, *Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree* - ¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

6.

Freedom from the Law’s curse is by faith not by the works of the Law.

The Judaizers

Paul’s teaching

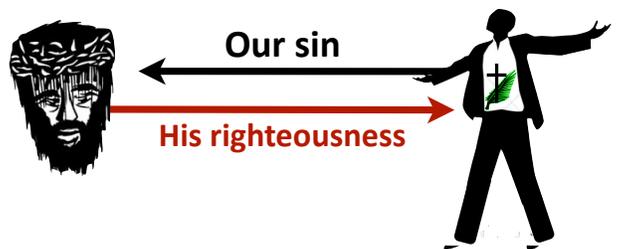
The Law promises life but only reminds us of our need for righteousness

Christ bore our curse, we receive his righteousness

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



What did Jesus do with the Law?



He elevated its standard

“You have heard it said, but I say . . .”

He raised the bar so that all would be humbled.

He embraced its sanctity

“I have not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

All that it demanded was fulfilled by Him.



He eliminated its sting

“abolishing in His flesh the enmity”

He set all believers free from the Law’s Covenant curse.

The case for faith

1. The Gospel is Cross centered.
2. The reception of the Gospel is by faith.
3. The miraculous work of the Spirit is by faith.
4. Sons of Abraham are identified by faith.
5. Righteousness is only possible by faith.
6. Freedom from the curse of the Law is by faith.