

The Sons of Abraham by Faith

Galatians 3:1-9

October 21, 2018 – Pastor Nick Neves

Paul’s words in Galatians 3:1 seem harsh. In what ways can ‘tough love’ benefit a fellow believer? (see Luke 24:25-26)

WORD FOCUS: ‘bewitch’ (βασκαίνω – bas-kah'-ee-no)

To give someone the evil eye, to cast a spell over, to fascinate in the original sense of holding someone spellbound by an irresistible power.

Paul’s urgent and serious tone reflect the reality that there is a spiritual force of considerable strength who is consistently seeking ways to devour us. We must be aware of the Devil’s efforts to bewitch us.

In his attempt to counteract the bewitching influence that has been deceiving the Galatians, Paul will make a two-part argument:

- 1. In verses 2-5 Paul appeals to the personal experiences of the churches in Galatia as _____ evidence that justification is by faith, not works.**

Verse 2 – The Galatians had received the Spirit by _____, not by works. (see also Romans 10)

Verse 3 – There is no reason for them to believe that what God began in the Spirit should now be _____ by the works of the flesh. (see Philippians 1:6, 1 Corinthians 4:7)

Verse 4 – Retreating to works would mean the hardships they endured for placing their faith in Christ were suffered in _____. (see Acts 13-14)

Verse 5 – Were the _____ performed among them the product of works, or by trusting the Spirit in faith?

Paul’s audience has received plenty of practical evidence that faith is the agent of justification, not works. But the practical arguments are not enough...

- 2. In verses 6-9, Paul builds the second leg of his argument by appealing to the _____, namely the Old Testament salvation of Abraham by faith.**

Paul mentions Abraham _____ times in his letters, so if you hope to grasp Paul’s understanding of justification by faith you need to understand the fundamental role that Abraham plays in the scripture regarding this doctrine.

Paul declares that those who are of _____ are sons of Abraham...

- *NOT* those who are _____ descendants of Abraham.
- *NOT* those who are _____.

If Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him, how did believers in the Old Testament come to be saved? A common belief is that they were saved by keeping the law and offering sacrifices, why is that an incorrect belief?

Old Testament saints were saved the same way believers are saved today – by trusting in the Father’s _____. Without being able to utter the name of Jesus, the Old Testament saints were still trusting in Jesus.

Though they did not know all that God would do, the scriptures they *did* have all pointed continually forward to Jesus and His atoning work.

Every sinner who will ever stand before God as a forgiven, without condemnation, will do so by the blood of Jesus Christ. There has never been another solution to our sin.