

Galatians 3:1 – 14

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before
2 whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as
3 crucified? ² This is the only thing I want to find out from
4 you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or
5 by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun
6 by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
7 ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in
8 vain? ⁵ So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit
9 and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the
10 Law, or by hearing with faith?

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

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

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

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

See suggested questions on the back.

- Mark (circle, underline, etc.) different words that are repeated.
- Draw lines connecting similar ideas in different parts of the passage.
- What comparisons or contrasts does he make?
- What else in the passage gets your attention?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

See suggested questions on the back.

- How would you title each section or paragraph? Are these paragraph breaks from NASB where you would divide the passage?
- How do the different paragraphs relate to each other? How would you describe the flow of Paul’s thought process?
- What other questions come to your mind?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

See suggested questions on the back.

- How do you see the Spirit’s evidence of grace in your life?
- What would it look like for others to be blessed in you as a child of Abraham?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)