

to the churches of Galatia

#4, foolish Galatians, Gal 3:1-9

1““He unlocked the door to the narthex and went in, feeling at once his gladness to be there.

He was seldom alone in the church anymore—the parish was growing, and more and more often someone was puttering about or having a meeting, or the tourists were trying to get in and see the ancient Mortlake tapestry, which was insured to the hilt.

He bowed before the alter and sat down in the second pew on the Gospel side, and kicked his shoes off.

This was home.

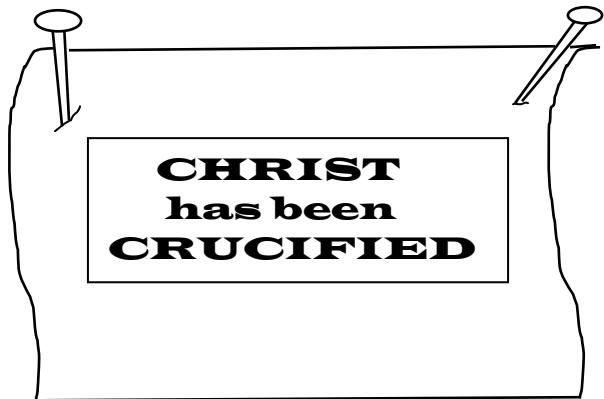
He didn’t much care about the mice, who were not, at least for the moment, dining on the retable. He wanted merely to sit and let the peace soak in, and the fragrance of the chestnut walls, and the years of the incense and dried hydrangeas and fresh flowers and beeswax and lemon oil.

He loved the smell of his churches over the years, perhaps especially the little mission church by the sea. With the windows cranked open to the fresh salt breezes, and the incense wafting about on high holy days, it was enough to send a man to the moon. The Protestants didn’t think much of incense, and the culture of the sixties hadn’t done anything for its reputation, either, but he was all for it.

When the Lord was laying out the plan for the tent of meeting to Moses, He was pretty clear about it. He asked that Aaron “burn sweet spices every morning” when he trimmed and filled the lamps, and to burn them again in the evening. Bottom line, there was to be “a perpetual incense before the Lord, throughout the generations.” Ah, well, it wasn’t worth wrangling over, incense. In the end, it was just one more snare in church politics.””

1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed (previously announced publicly) as crucified?

bewitch; (940) to fascinate with false representations.



[1.] v:1, bewitched you, before whose eyes, To which of the following did these people direct the focus of the Galatian Christians?

- a) The works of the law.
- b) Faith in Christ Jesus.

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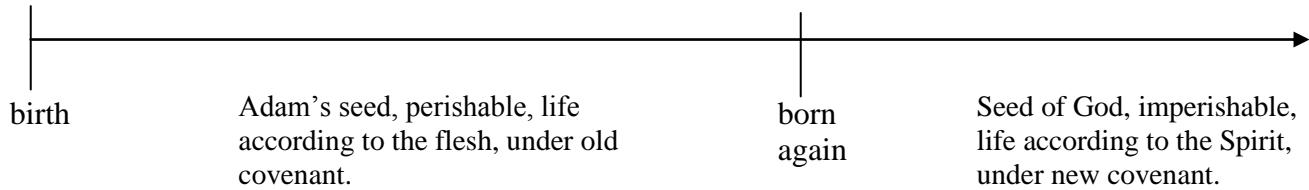
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2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

[2.] v:2, you receive the Spirit, Choose from the following, how the Bible says one receives the Holy Spirit.

- a) Graduated high school.
- b) Made an impact on your society.
- c) Faith in Christ Jesus.
- d) Performed the works of the law.

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?



[3.] v:3, Having begun by the Spirit, The time line (above) is of a person's life. Circle the area that would correspond to "beginning in the Spirit" and write down why you came to that conclusion.

[4.] v:3 again, Can a person, on their own, accomplish the point you just circled, and if so, how would it be done?

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perfected; NT:2005 (*ep-ee-tel-eh'-o*); from NT:1909 and NT:5055; to fulfill further (or completely),

Strong's Numbers and Concordance

[5.] v:3 again, are you now being perfected, Why or why wouldn't it be logical that if one starts their Christian life by the Holy Spirit they could "fulfill it further" by the works of the law.

4 Did you suffer so many things in vain – if indeed it was in vain?

[6.] v:3 again, For those under the new covenant, Hebrews 8:10 tells us where the law is written. Where is it?

5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

[7.] v:4, suffer so many things, Does one suffer the same things as a Christian, as they did when they were unsaved?

6 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

[8.] v:5, works miracles among you, Go ahead and answer the question and then give an example of a miracle you have experienced.

[9.] v:6, Abraham BELIEVED GOD, Here Paul, all of a sudden, brought up Abraham in his letter! Write down some facts that you know about Abraham.

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7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

[10.] v:7, sons of Abraham, What's happening in John 8:37-40, "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father." 39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, " If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.

[10.] Jn 8:40 again, What did these folks want to do to Christ?

[11.] question [10.], Is this something a Christian would want to do to Christ? If not, why not?

8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."

[12.] Gal 3:8, The Scripture, foreseeing, preached the gospel beforehand, **How is it possible for the scripture to do this?**

[13.] v:8 again, ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU, Does this include the nation of Israel or just Gentiles? If Israel also, why did they need it?

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9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

[14.] v:9, are blessed, In Psalm 32:1-2, David reiterated that blessing. Write down some of the facts of this blessing.

[15.] v:9 again, are blessed, Two pertinent references (Gen 15:6 &Ps 32:1-2) are written in Romans 4:3-8. Then Rom 4:9, asks a very important question. What is the question and who are the two groups that are mentioned?

[16.] From Rom 4:10, was the blessing reckoned to Abraham while circumcised or uncircumcised?

[17.] Rom 4:11 says why Abraham circumcised. Why was it?

[18.] OK, Rom 4:11-12 says that Abraham is the father of two groups. From the following, select the common factor in the two groups.

- a) They were all Baptists.
- b) They were all conservative Republicans.
- c) They all impacted their society.
- d) They all had faith.

[19.] True or False: The two groups mentioned in Rom 10:11-12, represent the nations mentioned in Gal 3:8.

[20.] Before we close this lesson, Hebrews 8:7-8 gives God's reason for providing the new covenant. What was God's reason?

[21.] Which covenant does Hebrews 9:1-2 describe? Now referring to both Hebrews 9:1-2 and the preface of this lesson, where was the incense burned?

[22.] from question [21.], why or why wasn't the burning of incense, mentioned in the preface, "just one more snare in church politics."

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So what was the point of the quote from the book as well as questions [20.] thru [22.]? The “Mitford series” books have sold in untold millions. Young and old, men and women have read and enjoyed them. The books are very well written and the characters are colorful and real. Also there is a lot of scripture in them, a lot of which, are accurate and placed in the proper context. This being said, we can conclude that the books provide religion that many readers understand and have come to love. As you minister to others, many will have read these books and could trip up over the concept of the two covenants. If these people, young and old, have not, also received in depth Bible teaching, they will more than likely go through their lives with a false idea of Christianity!

NOTES