

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:1-14 Catechism 15:39 & 16:43-44

**Singing:** 320:1-5 – 48:1-3, 7-8 – 390:1-3 – 191:1, 5, 6

Intro: Old habits of thinking die hard!

A. The Galatians' example is warning to young believers among us

B. Paul's reaction to their departure from *way of faith in Jesus X* is intense

1. He labelled them *foolish* (3:1)

a. believers are to use their mind (2 Tim. 1:7)

b. believers can be bewitched to disobey the Gospel

2. The devil's spiritual witchery was the distortion of Gospel of cross

a. The Galatian distortion: *how you live helps you to be saved*

b. The Gospel: *your life does not help you a stitch to be saved*

- personal holiness does not enter the court of justification

- personal holiness is fruit of salvation

3. The Gospel is the *justification of the ungodly who trust in Jesus* (Rom. 4:5)

a. to mix our works with Christ's work kills the Gospel

b. Gospel: *A believer in Jesus is justified by God* (Gal. 2:16; 3:13-14)

## **The Benefits of Jesus' Cross Death (2)**

### **I. He took our curse to the cross II. He takes our old man to the cross**

#### **I. HE TOOK OUR CURSE TO THE CROSS**

A. Paul vividly preached the cross of Jesus Christ: 3:1

1. He painted a *clear word picture* of Jesus crucified

2. The message of Jesus' cross felt at first as a blasphemous truth (vs. 13b)

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock and unto the Greeks foolishness.* (1 Cor. 1:18, 23)

a. the cross was utterly humiliating – offensive – horrifying

b. yet Jesus “endured the cross, despised the shame.” (Heb 12:2)

3. To grasp glory of Jesus’ cross, we need to unwrap from what He made it to us believers: *it was the full curse of God!*

B. Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse

1. How did He do this: *by being made a curse for us* (Gal. 3:13a)

2. What does it mean that He became a curse of us?

a. means He was innocent before He was made a curse (Is. 53:12)

b. means God imputed to Jesus’ Person the sin of the world (John 1:29)

- He was charged with every foul sin His Church committed

- The LORD laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Is. 53:6)

**Living this truth ...**

A. Burdened and fearful: *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world* (John 1:29)

1. Cease your efforts to make your case better before God

2. Allow yourself no longer to be bewitched by the evil one’s theology

3. He invites you to come unto Him with all your sins!

B. Fellow sinners who trust Jesus like Paul in Phil. 3:8-9

1. Be comforted as you look at the cross: *He took your curse* (Gal. 3:10)

2. Drink daily & deeply from this infinite well of salvation (Lord’s Day, 16:44)

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You have not understood Christianity  
if you do not understand the word ‘justified’. (John Stott)

Justification of the sinner who trust Jesus  
is the very hinge and pillar of Christianity. (Thomas Watson)