

Study Guide for November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001 *Sola Fide* #8 Galatians 3:1-9 By Faith -- Not Works

1. When have you become very frustrated by someone's failure to grasp an insight that you understood and were trying to make clear to him or her? Was the truth ever perceived by that person?
  
2. Astonishment! (Gal. 3:1)
  - A. How would you describe Paul's tone as he writes these words?
  - B. Compare Paul's term of address, "You **foolish** Galatians!" with the different terms used in the following references. How do the different terms fit the particular emphases?
    - 1) Gal. 1:11, 3:15, 4:12, 28, & 6:1:
    - 2) Gal. 3:26-4:7:
    - 3) Gal. 4:19:
  - C. As you review your spiritual journey, was there a time when you needed to be confronted about **foolish** behavior that was hindering your growth in Christ?
  
3. Experience. (Gal. 3:2-5) Paul challenges the Galatians to review their spiritual history so as to recognize the **inconsistency** they are now demonstrating. Fill in the blanks to catch his reasoning.
  - A. How was the Holy Spirit received? By \_\_\_\_\_ the law, or by \_\_\_\_\_ what was heard?
  - B. How will they attain their goal? With the \_\_\_\_\_, or by \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - C. Why does God give his Spirit and work miracles? Because they observe \_\_\_\_\_, or because they believe what they \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - D. Briefly summarize the difference between believing the truth and trusting in the Spirit versus observing the law and relying on human effort?
  
4. Scripture. (Gal. 3:6-9) Paul continues his challenge by referring to the life of Abraham, which he probably taught them in his earlier preaching. Certainly those with Jewish backgrounds would be well aware to the story of Abraham. Review that bit of biblical history by answering the following.
  - A. When and where did God declare Abraham righteous? (see Gen. 15:1-6)
  - B. Did God make this declaration before or after Abraham was circumcised? (see Gen. 17:1-14)
  - C. What is the blessing to Abraham (first recorded in Gen. 12:1-3) and quoted in Gal. 3:8?
  - D. Complete the following sentences, "Those who \_\_\_\_\_ are children of Abraham. . . So those who have \_\_\_\_\_ are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith."
  
5. What alternate theories are there today about the nature of salvation? Evaluate one of these teachings in the light of your spiritual experience and the teaching of Scripture.