

## THE SHOCKING LOVE OF GOD

You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was vividly portrayed as crucified? (Galatians 3:1)

I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing—if in fact it was for nothing? So then, does God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law? Or is it by believing what you heard—just like Abraham who believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness? (Galatians 3:2-6)

You know, then, that those who have faith, these are Abraham's sons. Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and proclaimed the gospel ahead of time to Abraham, saying, All the nations will be blessed through you. Consequently, those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith. (Galatians 3:7-9)

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, because it is written: Everyone who does not continue doing everything written in the book of the law is cursed. (Galatians 3:10)

May the LORD bless you and protect you; may the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the LORD look with favor on you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because the righteous will live by faith. But the law is not based on faith; instead, the one who does these things will live by them. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written: Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. (Galatians 3:11-13)

*“Our merciful Father in heaven saw how the Law oppressed us and how impossible it was for us to get out from under the curse of the Law. He therefore sent His only Son into the world and said to Him: “You are now Peter, the liar; Paul, the persecutor; David, the adulterer; Adam, the disobedient; the thief on the cross. You, My Son, must pay the world's iniquity.” The Law growls: “All right. If Your Son is taking the sin of the world, I see no sins anywhere else but in Him. He shall die on the Cross.” And the Law kills Christ. But we go free.” (Martin Luther)*

**Jesus was cursed so you could be blessed.**

Reflection Question:

What is a struggle, doubt, or worry that Jesus invites you to replace with His grace?

Scripture from the CSB unless noted.