



# THE WORK THAT GOD REQUIRES: REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE

Galatians 3:1-14



VS. 1

Paul, in a blend of grace and truth, addresses those who have set aside the grace of God. Their behavior is described as foolishness, since they had such convincing proof as the crucifixion of Christ.

Consider “When I Survey...”

VSS. 2-5

While abrupt, the apostle Paul is clearly confronting out of love for the Galatians. (Proverbs 27:6)

Note how he walks them through what they know to be true (their own salvation experience):

How did you receive the Spirit?

Does it make sense to backtrack now?

Did the Holy Spirit come in fullness before or after the Cross? (John 14:25-27; 16:5-7; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4)



VSS. 6-9

Vs. 6 Justification has only ever been by faith  
See Romans 4

What of those who died before Christ came?

They were looking ahead in faith to the finished work of the Messiah. In faith, we are looking back upon His finished work.



## AGAIN, ALL BY FAITH

The Gospel to the Gentiles, announced to Abraham:

“All nations will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:1-3

We who are in Christ are heirs of the Promise!

Gal. 3:29

## VSS. 10-12 A DIRE REALITY

Those who 'set aside the grace of God' (2:21) and rely instead on the Law are under a curse. (Deut. 27:26)

See also Deut. 27-28; Rom. 3:10-18

Indeed, imagine the pride necessary to make one believe they are able to observe every single law perfectly. James 2:10



“The righteous shall live by faith.”

-Hab. 2:4

Another OT prophetic declaration of  
justification by faith alone



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! VS. 13-14

Christ redeemed us from the curse!

It was no small gesture. He did so “by becoming a curse for us (Deut. 21:23)

Indeed, “He bore the dreadful curse for my soul.”

2 Cor. 5:21



Christ's redemption affords those who trust in Him  
both the gift of salvation and the promised gift of the  
Holy Spirit.

And it's only through the Holy Spirit that we can live a  
life worthy of the Gospel.

Eph. 4:1; Phil. 1:27



“Upon the Cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see  
The very dying form of One who suffered there for  
me.

And from my smitten heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:

The wonder of redeeming love and my unworthiness.”

- Elizabeth Clephane