

## **“In Fear of a Faulty Faith”**

### **Galatians 3:1-5**

It is possible to believe and yet believe the wrong thing. It may be that many well-meaning church members are suffering loss because of a faulty faith. Evangelist Jay Strack says, “A faith that fails to finish, was faulty from the first.” The Galatians suffered from a faulty faith. How amazing that they had so quickly deserted Him who called them by the grace of Christ to a different gospel. (cf. 1:6). Notice what that included:

- I. A faulty faith FORGETS THE BASIS OF SALVATION (v. 1b “Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.”)
  - A. Our salvation is based upon the ATONING DEATH OF CHRIST (1:4a)
  - B. Our salvation is based upon the BODILY RESURRECTION OF CHRIST (cf. 1 Peter 1:3)
  
- II. A faulty faith FORSAKES THE MEANS OF SALVATION (v.2 “...did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?”)
  - A. We are saved by means of GRACE THROUGH FAITH (cf. Eph 2:8-9)
  - B. We are saved APART FROM THE LAW OF MOSES (cf. Romans 8:2-3)
  
- III. A faulty faith FORFEITS THE SECURITY OF SALVATION (v.3 “...having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”)
  - A. Our security hinges ON THE PERFECT SACRIFICE OF CHRIST (cf. 1 Peter 2:24)
  - B. Our security hinges on OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST (cf. 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 3:5)
  
- IV. A faulty faith FAILS THE TEST OF SALVATION (v. 5 “Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works of miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?”)
  - A. God works in us TO SAVE US (cf. John 16:8, 13)
  - B. God works in us TO KEEP US SAVED (cf. John 10:28-29)

Are you living in fear?...fear that you may actually be lost?...fear that you have not really believed or have actually believed the wrong thing? Do you have a faulty faith—a faith in your own effort or attempt to follow the rules? Are you depending upon your own “right-living” or good works or something else to be saved? Or, are you placing all your faith in Christ alone and His finished work of grace accomplished at the cross?