



Galatians

The Spirit is Received by Faith Part 1

Gal 3:1-5





- Why should we take time for silent prayer before studying God's Word?
- It has everything to do with what we will be studying this morning:

-Walking by means of the Holy Spirit

- Ephesians chapter 5 tells us how we are to walk:

vs 8 **For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.**

vs 15 **Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise. . .**

vs 18 **And do not get drunk with wine, for that is *[a waste]*, but be filled *[by means of]* the Spirit.**

- “Walking in the light”, “abiding in Him” and “being in fellowship” are all synonyms for “walking by means of the Spirit”.

1 John 1:6-9 **⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**



⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

-Although Christ has paid the penalty for sin, we still have that old man which can quench or grieve the Spirit by sin in our lives.

-We are admonished to name or admit those sins that we know about:

“If we confess our sins”

-We are then restored to fellowship with God: hence ‘abiding in Him’, ‘walking in the light’ ‘walking by means of the Spirit’:

“He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins”

-This is like rebooting your computer on a regular basis. It cleans out all the junk so that you can move on in your life by means of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:2 **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**

-Let’s not waste our time studying God’s Word if we are doing it by the flesh, and not by means of the Spirit!



-We have spent the last four months in the first two chapters of Galatians.

-That time has been spent, not only defending Paul's apostleship but also his message, as coming directly from Christ and not from man.

-We saw the source of his gospel 1:11-17

-We saw his early ministry before the leaders in Jerusalem accepted him. 1:18-24

-Then in chapter two, the Jerusalem leaders accepted Saul as an apostle but still had reservations about his message. 2:1-10

-He finally had to take Peter aside, the head Apostle of the church, and explain to him what God's grace is all about. 2:11-21

-Saul's instruction to Peter, in the last half of chapter two, introduces us to the rest of Galatians,



-Remember, this is the **first** epistle by Paul we have in scripture written shortly after his first missionary journey and before his second.

-Most likely written before the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 due to the fact it is not mentioned in Galatians.

-Before moving on to chapter 3 it would be good to review the relationship between Justification and Righteousness.

We'll take a couple of minutes and head down this rabbit trail→





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-The Doctrine of Justification and Righteousness

-The terms justification and righteousness comes from the same Greek root. (δίκη - dikē)

-Justification is the **verb** form (δικαιοῦται - dikaioutai)

-Righteousness is the **noun** form (δικαιοσύνη - dikaiosynē).

-Both are found in Galatians 2:16-21:

¹⁶ nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus. . . ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."



- Justification is built on the doctrine of Righteousness.
- They are both based on The Integrity of God.
- The Integrity of God is composed of three aspects of His essence:
 - 1. God's Righteousness** – God is perfect absolute righteousness. This is the standard of His integrity. It provides the norms by which He evaluates and judges all creation.
 - 2. God's Justice** - Justice is the application of that standard. God is perfectly fair to all His creatures.
 - 3. God's Love** – Which is the motivation of God's Integrity.
- What the Righteousness of God demands, the Justice of God executes. Motivated by the Love of God and expressed through the Grace of God.
- Grace is God's policy throughout the ages. Grace is unmerited favor.

-Therefore-



-If the Righteousness of God is His standard, and that righteousness rejects something, then the Justice of God condemns it.

-What the Righteousness of God approves, the Justice of God blesses.

-And the Love of God provides a solution expressed through the Grace of God.

-The Integrity of God provides the basis for understanding salvation.

-Here is God – perfect righteousness; here is man – falling short of that righteousness.

-No matter how good we are or what we do, we can never obtain God's approval.

-Any human righteousness we might have is filthy rags in God's sight.

**Isaiah 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean,
And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment. . .**

-God's standard is absolute perfection, much higher than any good thing man could possibly do.



-How can we ever meet God's standard?

-Because of God's Love, He provides the solution through Grace.

John 3;16 "For God loved the world in this way: that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life"

-At the moment of our salvation God's **Justice** imputes to the believer the perfect **righteousness** of Jesus Christ as our eternal, permanent possession.

-Experientially we are still a sinner. We are not **made** righteous; we are **declared** righteous.

-At the point of salvation, we are placed 'In Christ' having Christ's righteousness imputed to us.

-As a believer, when God looks at us, He sees the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

-Because of Christ's Righteousness in us, God declares us **righteous** which satisfies His **Justice**.



His Justice is satisfied by the righteousness of Christ imputed to us.

-This is all of God; not of the law, not of works, not of anything we could possibly do to try and please God.

-Justification is mentioned four times in Galatians 2:16,17:

Gal 2:16,17 ¹⁶ nevertheless knowing that a man is not **justified** by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified** by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be **justified**. ¹⁷ But if, while seeking to be **justified** in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be!

-Therefore, our justification comes by faith in Christ and not by works.
(non-meritorious belief)

Gal 2:20,21 ²⁰ "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."



Which brings us to the next section in Galatians



-Remember our main outline for Galatians:

I. Paul's Defense of His Apostleship chapters 1&2

II. Paul Defends Justification by Faith Alone chapters 3&4

III. Paul's Call to Liberty chapters 5&6

-What Paul pointed out to Peter in chapter two, he will now expand on in chapters three and four.

II. Paul Defends Justification by Faith Alone chapters 3&4

1. By defending the doctrine of justification by faith. Chapter 3

-By appealing to their personal experience. vs 1-5

“You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you”

-By comparing Abraham to the Mosaic Law. vs 6-14

“The scripture preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham”

-By the logical outcome of this comparison vs 15-29

“I speak in terms of human relations. . .Why the Law then”



2. By illustrating the doctrine of justification by faith. chapter 4

-A legal illustration vs 1-11

“that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

-A personal illustration vs 12-20

“Become as I am, for I also have become as you are.”

-A biblical illustration vs 21-31

“Abraham had two sons” from “the bondwoman”
and from “the free woman”.

-Galatians was the first epistle of Paul, inspired by God the Holy Spirit.

-Only in Galatians does he spend two chapters establishing the fact that his apostleship and message indeed came directly from the Lord.

-Once established, this lengthy account of his apostleship was no longer necessary in any of his other epistles.

-His authority in his other epistles is stated in just one or two verses.

-Concerning his message, he now appeals to their personal experience in chapter 3:1-5.

Galatians 3:1-5



¹ You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, [that ye should not obey the truth]* before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? ² This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? *KJV, NKJV

³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

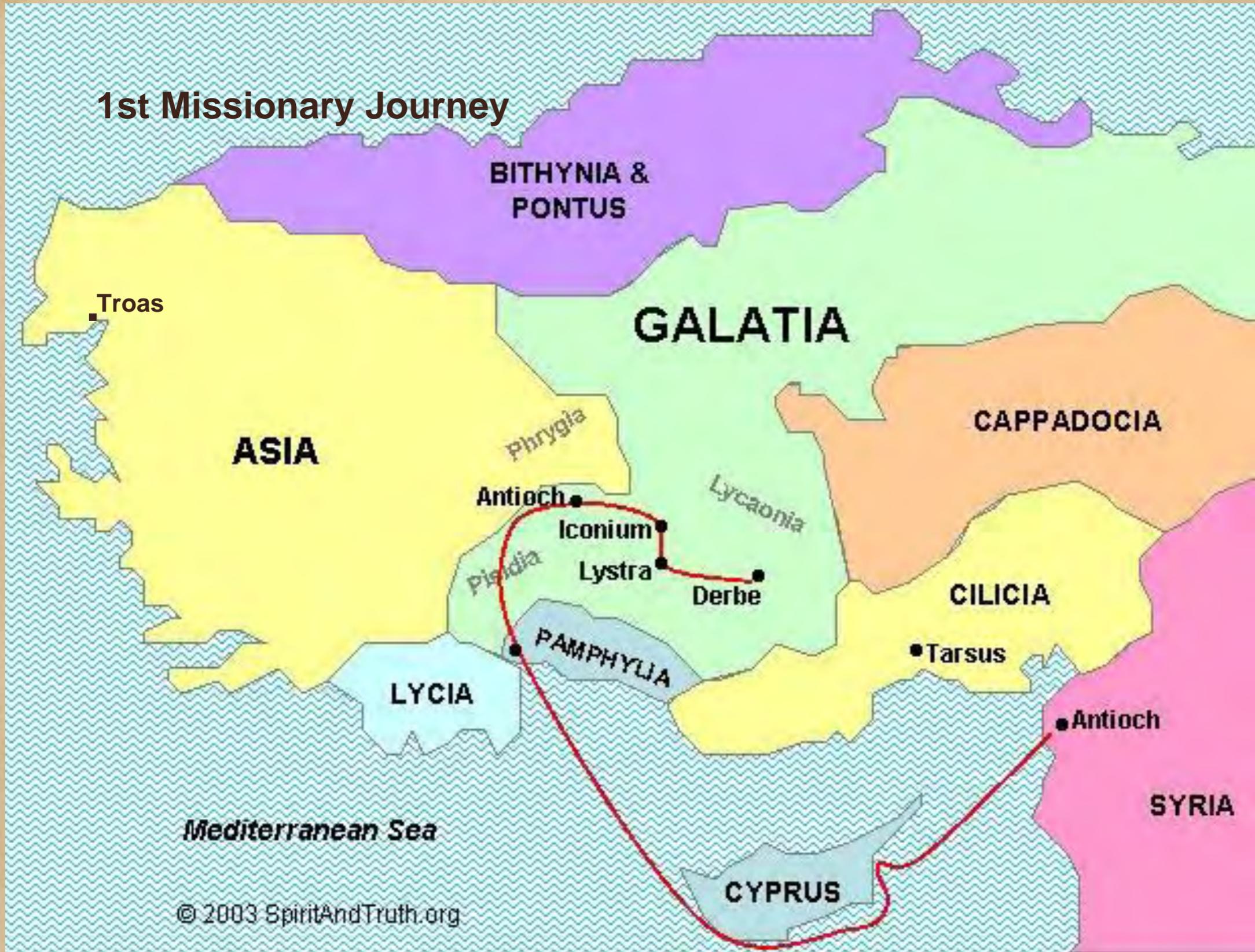
-This morning, we will only deal with the first two verses.

“You foolish Galatians”

-We are not dealing with just one church here; but a number of churches in several cities and surrounding areas of southern Galatia where Paul went on his first missionary journey.



1st Missionary Journey



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-This description, 'foolish' is not to be taken lightly. Paul is not happy with the Galatians. He is at war with the Judaizers.

-A more descriptive translation (*paraphrase*) can be found in the J.B. Phillips New Testament:

O you dear idiots of Galatia, who saw Jesus Christ the crucified so plainly, who has been **casting a spell over you**? I will ask you one simple question: did you receive the Spirit of God by trying to keep the Law or by believing the message of the Gospel?

Surely you can't be so idiotic as to think that a man begins his spiritual life in the Spirit and then completes it by reverting to outward observances? Has all your painful experience brought you nowhere?

I simply cannot believe it of you! Does God, who gives you his Spirit and works miracles among you, do these things because you have obeyed the Law or because you have believed the Gospel? **Ask yourselves that.**



-Paul has shown his displeasure with the Galatians in other sections of this epistle as well:

1:8,9 ⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to **be accursed!** ⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he **is to be accursed!**

4:16,20 ¹⁶ So have I **become your enemy** by telling you the truth? ²⁰ but I could wish to be present with you now **and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.**

3:1 **“Who has bewitched you?”** Who has deceived you?

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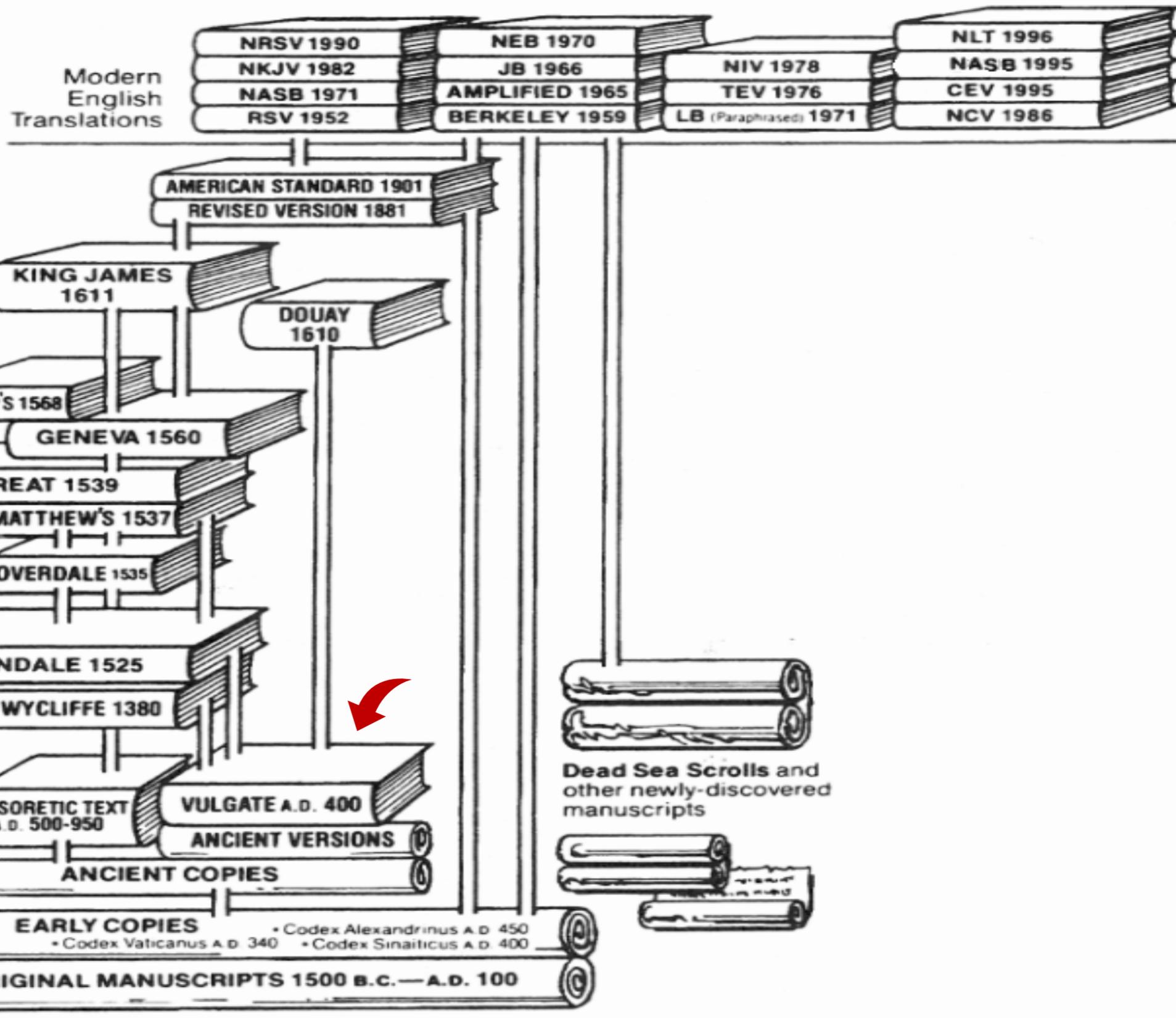
-The ancient world associated hypnotism with the eyes.

-Who has hypnotized you? It is quite obvious the Judaizers have cast an ‘evil eye’ with their legalism.



- The Galatians had been hypnotized by the Judaizers in two ways:
 - The one we saw in the last chapter, **salvation** by works, and the one we see in this chapter, **spirituality** by works.
- The phrase “**that you should not obey the truth**” is not in most of our Greek texts.
- Why is it that some Greek manuscripts are different from others?
- I don't want to bore you with 'textural criticism' – But:**

Check out the handout on 'Our English Bible'





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Back to Galatians 3:1

“**Before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?**”

-Paul reminds them of the clear presentation of the gospel centered on Christ's crucifixion.

Acts 13:38,39 ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is **proclaimed to you,** ³⁹ and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

-They had their eyes on Christ. But after Paul left, the Judaizers turned their eyes back to the Mosaic law.



Now verses 2-5 Concerning the Holy Spirit

- If our righteousness is nothing in God's sight, then how are we to live?
- What can we do to please God? Absolutely nothing!
- This is where the ministry of the Holy Spirit takes over for every believer.
- Paul asks four questions in verses 2-5:**

1. did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?
2. Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
3. Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?
4. Does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

-This morning, we will deal only with that first question in verse 2.

This is the only thing I want to find out from you:
did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law,
or by hearing with faith?



- The first five verses in chapter three are all about the Holy Spirit.
- Up to this point in Galatians the H.S. has not been mentioned.
- We have to assume that the Galatians were aware of the indwelling of the H.S. which came by faith at the point of Salvation.
- When Paul and Barnabas were in Galathia, they not only evangelized, but also spent time teaching them.
- A part of that teaching had to have been the ministry of the H.S.
- Even on the way back home, Paul and Barnabas revisited every city encouraging them in the faith.

Acts 14:21,22 Then Paul and Barnabas returned to the cities of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. ²² In those cities they helped the followers grow stronger in their faith and encouraged them to continue trusting God.

- Paul wants to know only one thing from them:

Gal 3:2 Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?



-In chapter two, the grace of God is illustrated by the work of Christ on the cross. –**Christ's death burial and resurrection-**

-Here in chapter three, God's grace is illustrated by the work of the Holy Spirit.

-The indwelling of the H.S. is the basis of our entire life as a Christian.

-This indwelling is called the 'Baptism of the Spirit'. –**Our death burial and resurrection-**

-Baptism (*Baptizo* - βαπτίζω) to immerse, plunge or to **identify**.

-We are identified with Christ by means of the H.S.

-As a believer, our whole life is one of identification with Christ.

-Now back to verse verse two:

Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

-The H.S. came to us just as salvation did; by faith in the finished work of Christ. Not by any work that we could do.



-Next week we will deal with the doctrine of the 'Baptism of the H.S.' and the last three questions concerning the Holy Spirit:

2. "Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?" vs 3

3. "Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?" vs 4

4. "Does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?" vs 5

