

"You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?"

Christian Liberty

Galatians 3:1

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1. The core principles of the Gospel

- Galatians 3:2f. *"Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ... Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ... Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—⁶ just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness'?"*
- Ephesians 2:8-9. *"... by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works ..."*

2. Foolish & Bewitched.

- a. **"You foolish Galatians":** *anoetos* = without-thinking; without reasoning through a matter
 - ✓ Luke 24:25. *"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe ..."*
 - ✓ 1 Timothy 6:9. *"Those who desire to be rich fall ... into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction."*
- b. **"Who has bewitched you?"** *baskaino* (appears once in the NT)= to cast a spell, wishing injury upon someone; captivate; spellbound.

3. Seven Bewitch-ings that sidetrack/derail regenerate Christians from the Gospel.

- a. **Bewitched by human effort.**
 - ✓ *"... he, desiring to **justify himself**, said..., 'And who is my neighbor?'"* Luke 10:29
 - ✓ **The default position of mankind.** A truth unique to Christianity.
 - ✓ If you insist on being justified by human effort, then you need ask, "How are you doing?" **God's standard is perfection:** *"You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."* Matthew 5:48.
 - ✓ **Have you been bewitched by human effort – in mind, emotions and will power – rather than on grace alone, by faith alone, through Christ alone.**
- b. **Bewitched by a one-sided Gospel**
 - ✓ **The full Gospel is like a two-sided coin:** God's love & mercy v. God's righteousness & wrath.
 - ✓ *"The LORD said... 'I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.'" Exodus 32:9-10*
 - ✓ *"Judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."* James 2:13.
 - ✓ **Have you been bewitched by a Gospel that only has the positive and not the negative?**

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c. Bewitched by pragmatism and results

- ✓ **Doing what works and what gets numbers**, usually evaluated based on numbers of people and programs, and amount of money.
- ✓ **Willow Creek Church's confession, 2004 church survey.**
- ✓ *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."*
Proverbs 16:25
- ✓ **Have you been bewitched by "what works" and shaped your practice around "results" rather than right doctrine and sanctified living?**

d. Bewitched by experience

- ✓ Do you believe in a **man-centered Gospel**, that begins with my needs rather than **who God is**?
- ✓ *"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."* Genesis 6:5
- ✓ **Have you been bewitched by relying on your experience for your assurance in Christ?**

e. Bewitched by an anemic Gospel

- ✓ Christianity dumbed-down to "the great commandment" or the four spiritual laws.
- ✓ **Have you been bewitched by a comfortable faith that is stagnate?**

f. Bewitched by political power

- ✓ 2 Chronicles 7:15. Solomon at the dedication of the temple. *"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves ..."*
- ✓ *"Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. ⁸ They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright."* Psalm 20:6-8
- ✓ People say "I am scared because of the political situation in our country"
- ✓ **Have you been bewitched by the political process that determines your emotions and hope?**

g. Bewitched by superior knowledge

- ✓ Especially tempting to those of us in the Reformed camp.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 8. *"As to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'an idol has no real existence,' and that 'there is no God but one.' (v4) ... This 'knowledge' puffs up, but love builds up. ² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. (v3)."*
- ✓ "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name."
- ✓ **Have you been bewitched by superior knowledge; that somehow you are more righteous because your thinking -- your doctrine -- is more correct than your benighted brethren?**