“By the Works of the Law, or By Hearing with Faith?”

Intro: With the Galatian church having been led astray by false teachers who were teaching a works-righteousness ______________, the Apostle Paul wrote in defense of the ___________ of Jesus Christ.

A. Paul was no second generation Apostle with a hand-me-down diluted gospel message, but he was an Apostle ______________ of heaven carrying the ______________ given Him by Christ the Lord.

B. Now, as we come to chapter three, and in defense of the Gospel of Grace, Paul turns from his personal ______________ to the testimony of the ______________ themselves.

I. In ______________ the Galatians for straying into error the Apostle Paul identified them as “______________” and “bewitched”.

A. This is an ______________ reproof meant to gain the Galatians’ attention and awareness of the awful depth of their ______________.

1. The Galatians were not simpletons but rather they had ______________ to employ their mental faculties in a ______________ manner. William Hendriksen says of the word foolish, “It refers not to bluntness but to a sinful ______________ to use one’s mental power to the best advantage.”

B. To shock them into the ______________ reality of what they have been giving themselves to Paul said, “You foolish Galatians, who has ______________ you, ...”

1. In the New Testament usage bewitched means “to ______________ by pretenses __ __ __ magic arts ...” (Zod). Paul is not saying “Who cast a magic spell upon you” but who by such beguiling words has so easily and quickly led you ______________?

II. Paul began to ______________ them to Christ and His ______________ of suffering reminding them of their own testimony: their ______________ salvation experience.

A. Had the Galatians given it a little ______________ thought they would have known better than to blindly follow the false teaching of works-merited salvation for before their own eyes Jesus ______________ was publicly portrayed as ______________.

1. Like a public sign, like the posting of a legal document or a king’s edict, Paul had ______________ ______________ that Christ was once for all crucified.

2. They had ______________ that Christ was crucified, why He was crucified, and the benefit of His crucifixion toward them. ______________ could they now mindlessly wander away into error ______________ the grace of God, portraying Christ as ______________ crucified?

III. Paul then asked this question: verse 2, “This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit ____ the ______________ of the Law, or ___ hearing with ____________”
A. Here is the question Paul placed before the Galatians and is now before us: in being saved, did we “receive the Spirit by the works of the ________, ____ by hearing with ____ ____?” Answer! We received the Spirit by hearing with ________! Amen!

B. The next question naturally follows: “Having begun by the Spirit, (as you admit that you did) are you ________ being perfected ____ the ________?”

1. If one is born again by the Spirit of God through grace by faith are they then to continue on to __________________ __ _________ of their sinful flesh? They did not merit their salvation so now are they to think that they are to keep themselves saved through meritorious works? Stott writes, “… the law says ‘Do this’; the gospel says, ‘Christ has done it all’. The law requires works of human achievement; the gospel requires __________ __ __________’s achievement.”

2. From Paul’s question we take it that the Judaizers erroneously held that even though one began by the Spirit, yet must they be perfected by works of the flesh! But church, if we began in the Spirit then so do we continue in the Spirit for the Scripture says, Phil 1:6b, “… ______________ a good work in you ______ ___________ it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

3. Paul’s question is rhetorical, the answer is obvious. Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being ___________ by the flesh?” No! Having begun in the Spirit so are we perfected ____ the ________.

C. In order to shake the Galatians to their senses Paul wondered aloud if the ______________ they had experienced were in ________. That is, did the Galatians experience grace and faith in Christ or not? Was it all in vain or not? Are they __________ by grace through faith in Christ ____ are they ________ saved?

D. With one last rhetorical question meant to jar the Galatians into right thinking Paul asked if ________ who abundantly ___________ salvation and miracles for them had done so on the basis of their ________ righteousness or on the basis of ________.

1. Just as the Galatians’ salvation was not earned and just as the indwelling Spirit was not earned, neither did ________ ___________ them with the indwelling Spirit and neither did He work miracles among them because they observed the Law, but because ________ ___________.

Closing: Phillip Graham Ryken writes, “There is no such thing as performance based Christianity. Having __________ by faith, we must ______________ by faith. Justification is a doctrine for the whole Christian life from start to finish.”

O church, how many of us have this tendency within us: to accept Christ by ________ but then, after the fact, think that we must earn our way along? We do not obey because we are pressed by the Law, but we obey because the precepts of ________ are written on our heart and now we want to obey.

By the works of the law, or by hearing with faith? By hearing with faith. ______ _______ ____ the ____________!