

# GALATIANS

DAY 2

Galatians 3

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TODAY'S THEME: OUR FAITH JOURNEY CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF FAITH

## Galatians 3:3 (ESV)

“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

## Galatians 3:2-3 (MSG)

“Let me put this question to you: How did your new life begin? Was it by working your heads off to please God? Or was it by responding to God’s Message to you? Are you going to continue this craziness? For only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was begun by God. If you weren’t smart enough or strong enough to begin it, how do you suppose you could perfect it?”

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Has someone ever tried to show you how to do something and you finally get to the point where you just say, “yeah, yeah, I got it from here,” only to really mess it up when you try to take over? Yeah...me neither. No, obviously I have. This is what Paul is saying is at risk of happening.

These false teachers have come in and have tried to tell these Galatian believers that faith alone wasn’t sufficient, but that works were now also required. It’s like they were trying to make “improvements” to the Gospel, which weren’t improvements at all. These Galatian believers were impressionable, and Paul now is stepping in to correct this false ideology. He’s explaining that the law WAS necessary.

Justifying faith was operative in the Old Testament, but not in the person of Jesus Christ until He was revealed. Paul likens the law to a guardian. Sons in that day would actually be committed to a guardian who acted as a disciplinarian, around the age of seven until an age set by their father, to be given moral training. This was the function of the law. It trained the children of Israel until Christ would be revealed.

Christ had been revealed, and now justification came by faith in Him. This was the message they received, but they had since been led astray.

How confident are you in God’s ability to cause you to grow? Do you have an attitude that takes control of your own spiritual formation and sanctification (becoming like Christ)? Or can you, like Paul, say that you’re “confident that He who began the good work in you will carry it out to completion.”

What is God speaking to me about in today’s reading?

## MY PRAYER FOR TODAY: