



Pride Goes Before the Fall

Galatians 3:1-14

Friday, July 3rd, 2020

¹ You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? "

Two times in the first 3 verses, the NIV translates Paul to have written the word "foolish", which sounds like he meant "stupid". The German NGÜ translates it less intensely, using "ignorant".

Independently of what the original text exactly says, Paul's words are clear, and his German-style directness is understandable and even appealing. He seems to be emotionally charged and really interested in the Galatians finally understanding the truth he's getting at!

But what is it that the Galatians don't get and drives Paul up the wall in such a way, that he almost desperately writes at the end of the letter, "From now on, let no one cause me trouble..." (Galatians 6:17)?

Since Moses came down the mountain with the written law from God, the Israelites learned to know and follow the law. It is therefore understandable for some to draw their safety of salvation from the law, which ultimately relies on their own strength. Basically, it makes sense. I simply keep the entirety of the law and then can be sure I get into haven. I don't know how it looks like for you, but for me the exact opposite is often the case. In the moments where I think I earned it and say, "I am so good - God just has to accept me now!" - exactly here I fall from my high ground. Thank God I don't fall lower than into His hands and His grace... But this is exactly Paul's point!

We won't be free through knowing and keeping the law! (Galatians 3:10) Pride goes before the fall! We will be freed by making ourselves aware of our daily need for Christ's forgiveness and that with the law yet without His gift of grace, we are indeed lost!

How encouraging it is to see that God already promised this to Abraham and his descendants, long before He even gave the law to Moses. God is the God of grace and love!

Prayer: Father, thank You for your patience with me, that You wait for me every day and chase after me whenever I think I can find my own way. Renew my heart and my thoughts so that I cling to Your truth. Let it become more and more visible in my life, that I was given eternal life and that You freed me from the curse of the law! Amen.

-Janis Arzet-

