

Galatians: Faith and Freedom
Trusting or Trying
Galatians 3:1-14 (page 811)

Sunday, October 7, 2012

Frank Mascaro

When I choose “trying” over “trusting” I am:

- abandoning the t r u t h of the gospel of Christ for a l i e (3:1)

- contradicting my own s a l v a t i o n e x p e r i e n c e (3:2-5)
 - Did I become a Christian by w o r k s or by f a i t h? (v 2)
 - If I b e g a n my Christian life by faith, w h y would I then try to e a r n what I already have by reverting to s e l f e f f o r t? (vs 3-5)

- contradicting the s c r i p t u r e and its doctrine of s a l v a t i o n (3:6-9)
 - Abraham was j u s t i f i e d the s a m e way we are - by God’s grace through faith, n o t works (v 6-7; Gen 15:6; 17:11-14)
 - God has only o n e plan of salvation (vs 8-9; Gen 12:3; 18:18)

- ignoring Christ’s r e d e m p t i o n to live under the c u r s e of s e l f a c h i e v e m e n t (3:10-14)
 - Works of the law can n e v e r save us because it demands c o n t i n u a l, p e r f e c t performance (vs 10-12; Deut 27:26; Hab 2:4; Lev 18:5)
 - Jesus r e d e e m e d me from the c u r s e of performance to know the f r e e d o m of f a i t h (vs 13-14; Deut 21:23)

Getting it right...

How do you answer Paul’s five questions in Galatians 3:1-5? How do _ your answers affect your understanding of your faith and how you live? _____

What does the example of Abraham teach us about faith and righteousness? How does that affect what I believe and how I act? _____

(continued on back)