

**Title:** When A Christian Plays The Fool

**Text:** Galatians 3:1-5

**Main Idea:** A Christian can fall into foolish and inconsistent living before God.

[Note - the word for “fool” in this passage is not the word that the Lord uses in the Sermon on the Mount. That’s the word μωρός (moros). This is the word ἀνόητος (anoetos). It means without understanding, unwise, foolish or senseless.]

**Division Statements:**

**1. A Christian plays the fool when he forgets the majesty of the cross (v. 1).**

The Galatians had forgotten the wonder, majesty and all sufficient glory of the work of Christ on the cross, which Paul had so clearly portrayed to them when the churches were founded.

**2. A Christian plays the fool when in pride he forgets his beginnings (v. 2).**

The Galatians thinking contradicts the work of the Spirit in their lives. Paul begins to show this by reminding them how their Christian lives began. Was there any human working involved in their becoming Christians. No they were completely helpless..

**3. A Christian plays the fool when he relies on his own strength rather than the power of the Spirit (vv. 3-4).**

It is foolish after having begun in such a way to now try and bring oneself to ἐπιτελέω (epiteleo), completion by one’s own efforts/working. Sanctification for the Christian is by grace through “the hearing of faith” even as Justification is.

**4. A Christian plays the fool when he attributes the works of God to himself (v. 5).**

“Miracles” is the word δύναμις (dunamis), meaning: power, might, or strength. I do not take this to refer simply to supernatural works that took place in the apostolic era, but to ordinary power of God we see at work in the church continually: conversion, people set free from sinful habits or addictions, family members reconciled, bitterness replaced with love, forgiveness, the fruit of the Spirit displayed mightily, prayers answered, missions advanced, etc. All of these are accomplished not by the power or strength of men, but by the merciful working of the Spirit.

---

**Bridging From Text To Sermon**

**Textual Idea:** The Spirit reveals how foolish the Galatians had become in their thinking.

**Main Idea:** A Christian can fall into foolish and inconsistent living before God.

**Interrogative:** When does a Christian play the fool before God?

**Transition:** The text reveals four ways that the Christian can play the fool.

Copyright © 2009 Chris Rice

Permissions:

You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material for use as sermon or lesson notes. For such use, you may feel free to alter the wording as necessary to meet your teaching needs. You are also permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in other formats provided that you do not alter the wording in any way, do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction and give appropriate attribution to the author. For web posting, a link to this document on [www.fearingthelord.com](http://www.fearingthelord.com) is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved in writing by the author prior to use.

For all formats other than handouts to be used in the personal delivery of sermons or lessons, please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By Chris Rice. © 2009 Chris Rice. Website: [fearingthelord.com](http://fearingthelord.com)