

**Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"By Grace Are You Saved"
Acts 15:1-35
Study-28**

Acts 15:1-2, 5-7

Worthy yet Heated Debate in the Church. Justification by Faith through the Grace of God! Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9

God pronounces a solemn judgment on anyone who preaches any other Gospel than the Gospel of the Grace. Galatians 1:8-9

Some leaders in Jerusalem have already accepted the Gentiles into the faith through Peter's reference to the house of Cornelius. **Acts 10-11**

Thought Of Our Passage: "God's Plan Of Salvation Has Always Been Salvation By Grace Through Faith, And That Not Of Ourselves."

1. Verses 1-6, Dissension:

2. Verses 7-21, Discussion:

3. Verses 22-35, Decision:

1. Verses 1-6, Dissension:

Acts 15:1 Some men Context - At the conclusion of the 1st missionary journey, it says this - **Acts 14:27**

how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. Notice who opened the door? It was **God**. Paul and Barnabas acknowledged God's Work!

Acts 14:28 And they spent a long time with the disciples. (2-3 years)

Date about 48-50 AD, Paul penned the book of **Galatians**.

some men (Judaizers) came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, from Jerusalem to Antioch is about 280-300 miles. Men were not sent, **Acts 15:24**

Judaizers refers to a faction of early Jewish-Christian believers in the 1st century who insisted that Gentile converts to Christianity had to adopt Jewish customs, such as circumcision and the Mosaic Law, to be saved.

This teaching strikes at the very core of Christianity; this distinction separates Christianity from Religions, Cults, and Isms! (The Cross was insufficient), John 19:30, "It is finished!"

Salvation is all of God's Grace and it is received through Faith!
Ephesians 2:8-9

Acts 15:2 had great dissension - "to stand, an uproar, or riotous"

debate – "to investigate jointly, discuss, enquire, question (with), reason together"

The Church's Outreach Ministry To The Gentiles Was In Question -

Doctrinal issue, that of **salvation by grace versus by works (Law)**

should go up to Jerusalem They were going into the very heart of Judaism.

to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. A small meeting in **Acts 11.**

Acts 15:3 Therefore, Therefore? Paul, Barnabas and others were sent to Jerusalem.

describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and great joy to all

Acts 15:4 were received by the church Known in Jerusalem.

Galatians 2:1-10 Titus

and they reported all that God had done with them. Churches (At least 4)

Acts 15:5 But some of There are always certain ones that want to disagree.

the sect of the Pharisees – "*Separated ones*"

"It is necessary to circumcise them, and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses." Reverting to their old belief system. (Traditions)

Trying to mix Jesus with the old traditions and old ways.

Matthew 9:16-17

Acts 15:6 apostles and the elders came together The church leaders.

2. Verses 7-21, Discussion:

Acts 15:7 After there had been much debate, (Got heated.) In **verse 4,** Paul and Barnabas had already spoken privately with the apostles and the elders.

Verses 7-11 Peter Speaks: Peter stood up and said to them,

This was **Acts 10-11** as Peter was led to the house of Cornelius. It has been 7-8 years.

Acts 15:8 "And God, who knows the heart, That was a divine action.

testified to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;
Acts 10:44

Ephesians 1:14 pledge of our inheritance, Holy Spirit is called a **pledge** "*earnest*".

**Acts 15:9 He made no distinction between us and them, Favoritism
James 2:1-13**

cleansing their hearts by faith. Not by works, circumcision, law of Moses.

Acts 15:10 why do you put God to the test *Why are you questioning and challenging God's decision? Insisting on your way?* **Acts 2**

yoke – was a beam that joined the oxen together so they could share the burden

The Yoke - "Ceremonial Law" **Galatians 5:1; Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:23-25**

neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? Law was to slay us, break us down, not build us up, **Matthew 11:29-30; Romans 5:20; Galatians 3:24**

Acts 15:11 United In Same Belief - saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."

Verse 12 Paul and Barnabas Speak: Acts 15:12 were relating what signs and wonders This would be **Acts 13-14**, their first missionary tour.

Verses 13-21 James Speaks: Acts 15:13 James answered, saying, "Brethren, listen to me. Half-brother of Jesus (Book of James), leader of the Jerusalem Church, **Acts 12:17; 21:18**, visited by Jesus, **1 Corinthians 15:7**

Acts 15:14 "Simeon (Peter) among the Gentiles a people for His name.

Acts 15:15 words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, Amos 9:11-12

Acts 15:16-18

1. God Visits The Gentiles – **16 'AFTER THESE THINGS (Church Age)**
 2. Then Christ Will Return – **16 I will return,**
 3. The Millennial Kingdom – **16-18** At His return, He will set up His kingdom.
- Acts 15:19 "Therefore** (*Experience backed by Scripture*)

**Doctrine: Because we are under grace, we are not to make non-biblical requirements of others: do not trouble (Circumcise)
Acts 15:5**

Acts 15:20 These things were all things that would have bothered Jewish Christians.

Practice: Because we are under grace, we gladly restrict our freedom for the sake of others: 1 Corinthians 9:19-21

Stay Clear Of Idols - but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols Stay clear of idols - there is but one true God.

Stay Clear Of Immorality - and from fornication Used in idolatry, Gentile behavior, **Leviticus 18**, which was marriage regulations. **(Moral Law)**

Sacrificed Animals To False gods - and from what is strangled and from blood. Having to do with idols.

Acts 15:21 keep the fellowship of Jews and Gentiles together.

3. Verses 22-35, Decision:

Acts 15:22 Choose trustworthy men to deliver the letter.

Verses 23 – 29 The Letter: Acts 15:23-24 some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls,

Acts 15:25-29 it seemed good to the Holy Spirit “The Acts Of The Holy Spirit.”

Acts 15:30-31 they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

Acts 15:32 prophets foretell, but really are forth-telling.

Acts 15:33 Antioch then sent the delegation back to Jerusalem, where they came from.

Acts 15:34-35 They remained and continued the instruction.

Application:

- 1. Doctrine:** Justification By Faith - We Are Saved By Grace Alone: Not Ordinances, Ritual, Rite, Nor Ceremony.
- 2. Practice:** Liberated Life Does Not Mean An Unrestrained Life: We Are Called To A Life Of Holiness. Grace Means Giving No Offense.
1 Corinthians 10:32
- 3.** The Word Is The Final Authority Over Experience. The Will Of God And The Word Of God Are Inseparable.