

**Series "The Acts Of God"**  
**"By Grace Alone"**  
**Acts 15:1-35**  
**Study-28**

**Acts 15:1-2; 5-7**

**We have a Worthy yet Heated Debate in the Church.**

**Romans 5:1**

**The Gospel of Salvation Says** – "Nothing in my hands I bring; simply to the cross I cling."

**Religion says** – "Something in my hands I bring!"

**The Gospel of Salvation Says** – "Done, Finished"

**Religion says** – "Do This"

God Pronounces a Solemn Anathema on Anyone who Preaches any Other Gospel than the Gospel of the Grace of God found in Jesus Christ His Son - Gal 1:8-9

**1. Verses 1-6 – Dissension**

**2. Verses 7-21 – Discussion**

**3. Verses 22-35 – Decision**

**1. Verses 1-6 – Dissension:**

Acts 15:1

Acts 14:27-28

Acts 15:24

John 19:30 – He said, "It is finished!"

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

Acts 15:2

"great dissension" – "to stand, literally an uproar, or riotous"

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

The Church's Outreach Was In Question – Along with preaching the Gospel, they should have been teaching the Gentiles how to live as good Jews.

Acts 15:3-4

Gal 2:1-10

Acts 15:5

Pharisees – “Separated ones”

Matt. 9:16-17

Acts 15:6

## **2. Verses 7-21 – Discussion:**

Acts 15:7

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

Acts 10-11 – as Peter was led to the house of Cornelius.

Acts 15:8

Acts 10:44

Eph 1:14 – “who is given as a pledge of our inheritance,”; The giving of the Holy Spirit is called a pledge, “earnest” or “a down payment; an engagement ring to say that the future will be fulfilled.” It is proof that you belong to the Lord.

Acts 15:9-10

“why do you put God to the test” – Why are you questioning and challenging God's decision? Insisting on your way?

The Yoke – was the “Ceremonial Law”, Gal. 5:1; Romans 3:19-20; Gal 3:23-25

Matt 11:29-30

Acts 15:11

United In Same Belief – Note Peter's Gracious words, that Jews are saved the same way Gentiles are saved!

12 – Paul and Barnabas speaks: Acts 15:12

Verses 13-21 – James Speaks: Acts 15:13-15

Amos 9:11-12 – Book of Judgment; only a few verses of blessing and James quotes them.

Acts 15:16-18

1. God visits the Gentiles – 16: "AFTER THESE THINGS"
2. Then Christ will Return – 16: "I will return,"
3. The Millennial Kingdom – 16-18

Acts 15:19

Doctrine: Because we are under grace, we are not to make non-biblical requirements of others: "do not trouble (Circumcise) those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles,"

Acts 15:20

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

Stay Clear Of Idols – "but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols"

Stay Clear Of Immorality – "and from fornication" Lev. 18 which was marriage regulations. (Moral Law)

Stay Clear Of Murder – "and from what is strangled and from blood." (Life in the Blood)

Acts 15:21

### **3. Verses 22-35 – Decision:**

Acts 15:22

Verses 23-29 – The Letter: Acts 15:23-29

Some have called this document the most courageous document in the history of the Church.

Acts 15:30-35

**Application:**

1. Doctrine: Justification By Faith – We are saved by Grace alone: Not ordinances, ritual or rite or 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 Cor. 10:32