

What Must They Do to Be Saved?

Acts 15:1-12

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I. Dispute revealed. Acts 15:1-3

The issue was that men from Judea began to teach other believers that circumcision and following Jewish Laws were _____ for Gentiles, before the leadership made its ruling.

- Notice the difference in attitudes. One group was more interested in adding rules for those being saved, while the other group _____ that Gentiles were being saved. **Luke 15:7**

II. Present the case. Acts 15:4-5

"It was the purpose of the Judaizers to keep the Church under the _____ of the Law and thus prevent it from very seriously modifying the state of things." (Gareth Reese)

- The Pharisees taught that faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Savior of the world was not _____. They taught that keeping the Jews traditions and Law were necessary for salvation. **Galatians 2:11-16**

III. The Jerusalem Council. Acts 15:6-11

Since the Lord knows the _____ of all men, He can give salvation to any and to all who would trust in Jesus to be saved.

- The Bible shows us the prison we were in before receiving Christ by pointing out our _____ condition.

IV. Confirmation. Acts 15:12

The Lord Himself is the _____ for us when we are working according to His will and purpose.

- Miracles often accompanied the Apostolic teaching, authenticating the message of Jesus and demonstrating God's _____.

V. Practical Application.

1. The message of the Gospel can never change, but the method of delivery should remain adaptable.
2. Address conflict _____. **Matthew 18:15-17**
3. Seek wisdom from spiritually _____ leaders.
4. Listen and _____ before speaking.
5. Let the Lord _____ whether our decisions are right.
6. Don't put _____ on others that are not biblical.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Acts 15:1-3**. What issue caused disagreement in the church in Antioch? According to **verse 1**, what were some men teaching about salvation? What happened as Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem?
Exodus 12:48, Galatians 2:11-16, Luke 15:7
2. Read **Acts 15:4-5**. Who gathered to consider this matter? Why was circumcision such an important issue for Jewish believers?
Genesis 17:1-14, Romans 2:28-29, Philippians 3:3, Colossians 2:11
3. Read **Acts 15:6-11**. How does Peter say people are saved? What argument did Peter make about God giving the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles? How does the experience of Cornelius (Acts 10) support Peter's argument?
Acts 10:44-48, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5
4. What does Peter mean when he says God "made no distinction" between Jews and Gentiles? Why does Peter call the law a "yoke" that neither they nor their ancestors could bear?
Galatians 3:21-25, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23
5. What does this passage teach about the role of grace in salvation? Are there any "extra requirements" people sometimes add to the gospel today? How can we guard against legalism in our own faith? **Acts 16:31, Romans 10:9-13,**
6. How should we respond when sincere believers disagree on important issues?
Matthew 18:15-17
7. Discuss the Practical Application of the Sermon.