

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Conflict

Matthew 6:25-26 (ESV) “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

Matthew 6:27-29 (NIV) “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Matthew 6:30-32 (NIV) “But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.”

Matthew 6:33-34 (NIV) “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

IS SALVATION BY GRACE OR BY KEEPING THE RULES?

Acts 15:1 (NIV) “Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: ‘Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.’”

Acts 15:2 (NIV) “This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.”

TRUE OR FALSE? Jesus + Circumcision = Salvation.

Acts 15:5 (NIV) “Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, ‘The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.’”

Peter speaks:

Acts 15:7 (NIV) “After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: ‘Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.’”

Acts 15:8-9 (NIV) “God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. ⁹He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.”

Acts 15:10 (NIV) “Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?”

Acts 15:11 (NIV) “No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

Paul and Barnabas speak:

Acts 15:12 (NIV) “The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.”

James speaks:

Acts 15:13-15 (NIV) “When they finished, James spoke up. ‘Brothers,’ he said, ‘listen to me. ¹⁴Simon has described to us

how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. ¹⁵The words of the prophets are in agreement with this ...”

Acts 15:19 (NIV) “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

A decision is reached:

Acts 15:28-29 (NIV) “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you (the Gentiles) with anything beyond the following requirements: ²⁹You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.”

THE TRUTH: Jesus + Nothing = Salvation.

Acts 15:11 (NIV) “Peter said: ‘We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.’”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.”

DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT?

Romans 6:1-2 (NIV) “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”

1. I want to live to please God.

1 Thessalonians 4:1_a (NIV) “Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living.”

2. I want to live to love others.

Galatians 5:6 (NIV) “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”