

ACTS

THE IMPACT OF REDEMPTION



ACTS 15:1-21

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. So, being sent on their way by the church,



ACTS 15:1-21 (cont.)

...they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said,



ACTS 15:1-21 (cont.)

“It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.” The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.”



ACTS 15:1-21 (cont.)

“And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”



ACTS 15:1-21 (cont.)

And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,



ACTS 15:1-21 (cont.)

“After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things known from of old.’ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols,



ACTS 15:1-21 (cont.)

...and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."



THE CRUSHING YOKE OF FALSE TEACHING

ACTS 15:1-21



JOB 4:17

“Can mortal man be in the right before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?”



JOB 9:2

“Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before God?”



JOB 25:4

“How then can man be in the right before God?
How can he who is born of woman be pure?”



“What is man’s greatest need in the world tonight? Man’s greatest need in the world tonight is to be right with Almighty God.”

D. MARTYN LLOYD – JONES





THE CRISIS OF FALSE TEACHING



ACTS 15:1-2

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.





“There is a strange proneness in us to make our opinion and practice a rule and a law to everybody else, to judge all about us by our standard, and to conclude that because we do well, all do wrong that do not just as we do.”

MATTHEW HENRY





THE CORRECTION OF FALSE TEACHING



ACTS 15:4-6

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses." The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.





“A tainted gospel is no gospel at all. A proclamation of good news laced with heresy will, like a drink mixed with poison, kill the hearer.”

ALBERT MOHLER





1 TIMOTHY 3:15

...the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.



THE CONFIRMATION OF GOSPEL TRUTH



ACTS 15:7-11

And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith."



ACTS 15:7-11 (cont.)

“Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”





ROMANS 10:13-15

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”



TWO WRONGS OF FALSE TEACHING



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1. False teaching was (is) an affront and insult to God.



TWO WRONGS OF FALSE TEACHING

1. False teaching was (is) an affront and insult to God.
2. False teaching was (is) a great wrong done to Gentile believers.



LUKE 4:18-21

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.



LUKE 4:18-21 (cont.)

And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."





GALATIANS 1:6-9

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again:



GALATIANS 1:6-9 (cont.)

If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.





JOB 9:2b

“But how can a man be in the right before God?”



JOB 9:15a

“I must appeal for mercy to my accuser.”



JOB 9:33

“There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.”



JOB 33:24a

“I have found a ransom...”



1 TIMOTHY 2:3-6a

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all....





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