

July 8th – Grace Comes Through Faith Alone

“But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

(Acts 15:11)

How can a person know for sure that they are saved? Depends on who you ask. Some people will tell you there is no way you can know for sure that you're saved and going to heaven. Others believe it is possible for you be saved and lose your salvation. The majority of people will tell you that you've got to do something in order to be saved. The list of things is long and varied – you've got to go to church, say your Hail Marys, be a good person, walk little old ladies across the street, etc.

Because of persecution in Judea, the early church sent missionaries to Samaria and far beyond that into Asia Minor. When the Gentiles began to hear the Gospel, many of them were saved through faith in Jesus. Yet, when news got back to Jerusalem that Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit, a group of believing Pharisees said, “It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the Law of Moses.” In other words, they said faith in Jesus is not enough – you must follow all the rules as well.

Just then, Peter stepped up and addressed what has come to be known as the Jerusalem Council. Speaking of the Gentiles, he said that God had “purified their hearts by faith” (Acts 15:9). He affirmed once for all “that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.” That said, it doesn't matter who you are or where you're from – the only way you can be saved is through faith alone in Christ alone. Anything more than faith in Jesus is a works salvation that will send you to hell. Have you trusted in Christ alone for your salvation?