

ACTS

Saved Through Grace

Acts 15:1-35

The Controversy

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- Do the Gentiles need to become Jews in order to be saved?
- Must they follow the law of Moses?

The Testimony

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- Peter
 - God chose to reveal the gospel to the Gentiles.
 - God testified for them by giving them the Holy Spirit.
 - Their hearts were cleansed by faith.
 - The Jews themselves were unable to keep the law.
 - Both Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace.

The Testimony

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- Barnabas and Paul
 - God did signs and wonders among the Gentiles.

The Testimony

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- James
 - God chose a people for his name from the Gentiles.
 - The Scriptures confirm this truth.

The Decision

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- James' Proposal
 - We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.
 - The Gentiles should abstain from:
 - food polluted by idols
 - sexual immorality
 - strangled animals
 - blood

The Decision

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- Why the prohibitions?
 - Acts 11:3
 - “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”
 - Leviticus 17-18
 - “foreigners residing among you”

The Decision

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- Why the prohibitions?
 - How can the Jews have fellowship with the Gentiles?
 - By avoiding these things, the Jews can fellowship with their new brothers and remain ceremonially clean.

Saved Through Grace

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- God has chosen a people for himself from all nations of humanity.
- Salvation comes through the grace of Jesus.
- Our hearts are cleansed by faith, not works of the law.