

Sunday, 11-05-2023

2023-2024 Fall Quarter
Unit III: Christ Frees, Law Enslaves

What Is Required For Salvation?
Bible Background: Acts 15:1-21
Printed Text: Galatians Acts 15:1-11 KJV/NIV
Devotional Reading: Acts 17:22-34

Prayer: *Eternal God, our Father, thank You for Your plan of salvation. Bless us to become awakened to the realization that the message of Christ is for all people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

Unifying Lesson Principle:

1. Some laws become obsolete and, like scaffolds, no longer serve the purpose for which they were originally designed. **How can we discern which laws are obsolete?** Peter rightly asserts that faith in Jesus Christ eliminates the need for slavish adherence to former laws (such as circumcision) for salvation.
 - a. Keep the heart circumcised at all times in order to be led by the Holy Spirit. Identify what laws have become obstacles in my spiritual journey – **Jeremiah 4:1-4; Romans 2:17-29.**
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Lesson Objectives:

1. Trace Peter's change of heart and mind on the spiritual requirement (or not) of physical circumcision.
 2. Cultivate an awareness of the Holy Spirit in the discernment process.
 3. Evaluate and challenge the church ministry and mission of grace, inclusivity, and freedom in Christ.
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Devotional Reading: Friday: God Is Near to Anyone – Acts 17:22-34

- Am I worshipping ignorantly (v. 23)? Am I too distracted to be on time for God's appointment (v. 27)? Ignorance should only be temporary (vv. 30-31).
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Exposition and Application of the Scripture: – Saved through the Grace of Jesus – Acts 15:1-11

A. Conflict: Pro-Circumcision Advocates (vv. 1-2)

- Do I have to be a Jew to receive the Holy Ghost (**Romans 2:25-29**)? What's the primary reason for confusion/conflict? Paul/Barnabas were fighting against what kind of system? If the Law isn't required for salvation, then what is? What part of being a Pharisee still resides within me (**upholding tradition, structure, and legal requirements for obeying God**)?

B. Paul and Barnabas Celebrate the Work (vv. 3-5)

- Am I doing my part in contributing to the mission of the Christ (**Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 12:9-21**)? Is my faith in Jesus Christ opening doors of opportunities to serve Him (**Acts 14:21-28**)? Am I allowing the excuse "BUT" to but in the way of my salvation? How well has the Word of Truth been passed down to my generation? How do I adjust God's perfect timing?

C. Confirmation of the Council (vv. 6-11)

- Why is the council needed when there's conflict about salvation? Did I receive Jesus Christ by hearing or doing (**Acts 14:21-28**)? How has God chosen me to be one of His spokesmen? What testifies to my faith/commitment? How has God made me ready for salvation? Do I try to enforce what I'm not doing for the Lord? Am I so set in my ways, that I can't adjust to God's timing which results in spiritual death?