

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.