

The Acts of the Apostles

Act 7

Expanding the New Community



The Acts of the Apostles

The issue = whether or not
Gentile converts need to be
circumcised & thus become
Jewish proselytes in order to be
saved

The Acts of the Apostles

Debate is addressed in 2 ways:

1. *Verses 1-4 = Concerns are Pastoral*

2. *Verses 5-12 = Concerns are Theological*

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 15:1-5 – Pastoral Concerns



The Acts of the Apostles

Quick History Reminder:

1. *Hub Church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to watch over/teach the hub church in Antioch of Syria*
 2. *Prophets later came from Jerusalem to assist/warn of a great famine in Judea*
 3. *Antioch Christians then sent Paul/Barnabas to Jerusalem w/ aide (probably visit mentioned in Gal. 2)*
-

The Acts of the Apostles

Quick History Reminder:

4. *Somewhere along the line Paul accused Peter, Barnabas & other leaders of not “acting in line with the Gospel” (Gal. 2)*
 5. *Now the problem resurfaces obviously not having been completely resolved*
-



The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 15:6-9 – Theological Concerns

Point = Gentiles that previously would have been unclean because they lacked the purifying benefits of the Law are now cleansed by God because they believed in Jesus

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 15:10-11 – Theological Concerns

Point = God has MOVED on in His dealing with humanity & it is SINFUL to demand obedience to the old way

The Acts of the Apostles

Any thought that are deeds will gain access to God:

- 1. An affront to the honorable pure life Jesus lived and handed to us*
 - 2. Insane to think we can actually pull off living perfectly before God*
-

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 15:12



The Acts of the Apostles

They moved because:

1. *Their hearts are open to God – they ASSUME they may not be right*
 2. *They drop what they know when faced with what God presents*
 3. *Solidified by what they see God's Spirit doing in people's lives*
-

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 15:13-18



The Acts of the Apostles

Jesus has:

1. *Taken His Seat on the Throne*
 2. *“Rebuilt” Israel thru His Spirit*
 3. *Is now reaching out to the rest of the world for full inclusion into His Kingdom*
-

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 15:19-21



The Acts of the Apostles

Goal:

- 1. To not place an unnecessary burden on the Gentiles*
 - 2. To create an awareness not to offend the Jews unnecessarily so the Gospel may have free course in their midst*
-

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 15:36-41



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



The Acts of the Apostles

Closing thoughts:

1. *Mystery of Obedience*

2. *Are the principles of chapter 15 still applicable today?*
