



# Tradition Tries to Stop The Gospel in it's Tracks

## Acts 15:1-35

### Review:

Acts 10:2 "He (Cornelius) and all his family were devout and God-fearing ..."

Acts 13:26 "Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles..."

Acts 13:50 "But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women..."

**"God-Fearers" were \_\_\_\_\_-Jews who had embraced a belief in the Jewish God, but were unable and/or unwilling to become fully \_\_\_\_\_ to Judaism.**

Acts 8 Phillip preached in Samaria (half Jewish, half \_\_\_\_\_)  
Philip evangelized the Ethiopian eunuch (a God-Fearer)

Acts 9:20 "At once (after his conversion) he (Saul) began to preach in the **synagogues** that Jesus is the Son of God"

Acts 11:19-20 "Now those who had been scattered by the persecutions that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled ... spreading the word **only among Jews**. Some of them, however ... began to speak to **Greeks also**, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus."

Acts 13:5 When they (Barnabas and Saul) arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the **Jewish synagogues**.

Acts 13:14 "... On the Sabbath they entered the **synagogue** and sat down."

Acts 14:1 "At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went **as usual into the Jewish Synagogue**, there they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and **Greeks (God-Fearers)** believed.

### Context for Chapter 15:

Only Jews and God-Fearers were \_\_\_\_\_ evangelized outside of Antioch and a few other remote locations.

## Chapter 15:1-5

1. There were Jewish Christians (vs5) that were having deep struggles letting go of their Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Jesus was the MESSIAH both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Jewish nation.
  - b. Jews had done all the work, and **endured all the hardship** to get to this point.
  - c. With a background of a works based salvation, this was offered **way too freely**.
  - d. Their very identity (circumcision and cleanness) were now severely **degraded**.
2. These same Jewish Christians struggled with \_\_\_\_\_ held, \_\_\_\_\_ based, \_\_\_\_\_ against Samaritans and Gentiles.
3. In response to this new trend of Gentiles becoming Christians, they produced the claim that for them to be Christians, they had to become \_\_\_\_\_ first. (Vs 1, 5)

### The Answer: Acts 15:8-19

1. Vs 8 This is not a decision that we get to make, \_\_\_\_\_ has already made it for us.
2. Vs 16-18 This is according to God's \_\_\_\_\_ from the very beginning.
3. Vs 19 "We should not make it **difficult** for the Gentiles who are turning to the God"

### The Compromise: Acts 15:20

1. Here are some very doable things that will create a \_\_\_\_\_ between you and the other Gentiles. (Meat and Blood = Social Change, Sexual Immorality = Moral Change)
2. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ compromise while better answers are being formed.
  - i. I Corinthians 8 is the complete teaching on meat offered to idols
  - ii. I Corinthians 6:18 is the complete teaching on sexual immorality (flee)

### Applications:

1. We as believers must embrace and celebrate that salvation comes \_\_\_\_\_ change, and change comes over \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We, as a body of believers, must never let traditions \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel.