



What Must One Do to Be Saved?

By Ken Terry on March 3, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 15

What must one do to be saved? This is an age-old question many people still wrestle with today. In our reading, we see Paul and Barnabas traveling to Jerusalem to discuss an issue being created by men from the Pharisaical order. *"And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved'"* (Acts 15:1). This teaching was not spoken by God as He commissioned Peter to go to the Gentile people and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Peter reminded them that God had chosen him for a reason, and he would not add or take away any of the instruction of God. Peter stated, *"that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe."* Peter did not add any amount of works or performance that one must do to be saved. You see, the party in question was trying to add requirements to the gospel. Peter's point to the Council was that only God can determine what is necessary to be saved, and only God can establish you in Jesus, due to one fact, *"So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith"* (vv. 8-9).

This is foundational in our faith. We are saved by grace alone, through faith in our Lord Jesus alone. The yoke of the law, which the Pharisees tried to invoke, was too much to bear. The Jews and their forefathers were not able to obey and keep those conditions of God's righteousness. Therefore, neither would any new believers. Paul then summarized the mystery, *"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they"* (vs. 11).

This is a good lesson for us today. You see, there are various opinions and teachings about God, Jesus, salvation and eternity. People hear so much, and most will lean toward the faith that speaks their concepts with the most vigor and frequency. That, in part, is why we see some of the other faiths growing at a such a high rate and the Church of Jesus Christ shrinking. We, as the Body of Christ, need to step up and speak to salvation and testify of Jesus. We must dispel the myths, rituals, and performance-based agendas that so many are putting out there. Please remember that faith is what faith does. Our actions and behaviors should reflect Christ's Spirit in us. Therefore, allow Him to lead you in spreading the gospel message. The Good News of Jesus Christ! We are ALL the people of God, *"So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things"* (Acts 15:17, NKJV).

PRAYER: Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we thank You for Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We thank You for Your Holy Spirit, that indwells us and leads us in all things Jesus. Father, we pray You will continue to reveal more of Yourself to us as we seek to know You

better. Father, we pray that Your Holy Spirit will continue to make us more in the image of Christ. We pray that He will empower us to get out of our own way and speak to the goodness of Jesus. Father, help us be the change agents who magnify the name of Jesus today, tomorrow and forevermore. We ask all these things in the matchless name of Jesus, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 16

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