



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of September 28, 2025

### Acts 15:1-11

***[1] But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” [2] And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. [3] So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. [4] When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. [5] But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.” [6] The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. [7] And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. [8] And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, [9] and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. [10] Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? [11] But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”***

1. Why do you think it's difficult for some people to accept that salvation is based solely on God's grace and not upon anything a person can do to earn it? How do even Christians sometimes live as though they had to earn their way into heaven?
2. In our passage we find the disciples arguing among themselves over how a person was saved. Do you think this dissension and these debates were necessary and healthy? Explain your answer and discuss whether dissension and debate are helpful in the church today. If so, how do you know when dissension and debate crosses the line from profitable to unprofitable?
3. What do you think JC Ryle meant when he said, “Some people get as much harm from their 'virtues' as others do from their sins” How can even well intentioned Christians fall into self-righteousness and why is this so harmful to the gospel?
4. How does a self-righteous attitude keep us from understanding the true height, depth and breadth of the love of Christ? Do you know any Christians who are like this? And what does it say about you if someone other than yourself came into your mind?
5. How does knowing we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (in other words giving God all the credit for our salvation) help us to live humble self sacrificing lives only for the glory of God? Do you live like this? Why or why not?