

# ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

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## Study 32: Grace: The only way to salvation

**READ** Acts 15:1-11 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is never at its most vulnerable than when the Biblical doctrine of salvation by grace through faith is brought into open dispute from those within the church. Acts 15 provides the episode when Judaizers brought into question salvation to the Gentiles without circumcision and law keeping.

**Big idea:** Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, must be clearly understood, joyfully accepted, and staunchly defended.

### Questions:

1. What did the Judaizers say was necessary for salvation (vv. 1, 5)? Why do you think they might have held to this view?
2. After Paul and Barnabas returned from their first missionary journey Judaizers brought into question salvation by grace without works of the law. Read the following references and state what Paul's concern was and what conclusion he came to regarding how a person is justified before God. Gal 1:6-9; 2:4-5, 15-16.
3. Read Gal 2:11-14. How did Peter's actions undermine the gospel and provide a modern day equivalent you may see in the church today?
4. What was the primary reason the church at Antioch sent a delegation to Jerusalem (vv. 1-2)?
5. Peter confirmed that the council "believe[d] that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus just as they [Gentiles] will" (v. 11). What were the reasons Peter presented in coming to this position? See vv. 7-10.
6. Some have said that more than any other doctrine Christian's must accept and defend the Biblical understanding of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone? Do you agree with this and why?
7. **Challenge Questions:** If, according to the Apostle Peter, salvation is by God's grace apart from works (v. 11. See also Gal 2:15-16; Eph 2:8-10), do you think a Catholic can believe in the teachings of his/her church and be truly saved? Why or why not?
8. How has this lesson changed or affirmed your thinking regarding the importance of a clear understanding of the gospel? Can you clearly articulate the gospel?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Worship:** *the Lord for the power of the gospel message to save all sinners*

**Thank:** *God for His providence in preserving the gospel message throughout the ages*

**Pray:** *that you would be unwavering in your commitment to and love of the gospel*