

The True Gospel
Text: Acts 15:1-21
January 18, 2025

Big Idea: There is one true gospel and we must uphold it by faith and for faith.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3

- a) What was the critical question that needed answering in by the Jerusalem Council?
- b) What would have happened to the church if the true gospel was not upheld in this moment?
- c) What happens to the church today if the true gospel becomes distorted?
- d) Spend time together in prayer for the purity of the Word (Ps. 12:6) in each ministry in the church.

To uphold the true gospel, we must uphold...

Point 1: Gospel CLARITY (vv. 6-18)

Question: Salvation is by faith alone, by grace alone, in Christ alone. What's your substitute?

Question #4

Salvation is...

By FAITH in Christ Alone (vv. 6-9)

- a) **Rd vv. 6-9:** How did God prove that salvation was for both the Jews and Gentiles (no distinction)?
- b) Where does the faith to believe the gospel come from? (v. 7)
- c) What does it mean that God knows the heart of each person? (v. 8)
- d) How should knowing that only God knows the heart; and that salvation is by faith alone with no partiality of persons, encourage us to share the gospel with people who may not be like us?

Question #5

Salvation is....

By GRACE from God Alone (vv. 10-18)

- a) **Rd vv. 10-18:** What were the three proofs that the leaders (Paul, Barnabas, Peter & James) used to prove the truth that salvation was by grace alone?
- b) Why is it putting God to the test (v.10) to add anything to salvation by grace alone?
- c) What are some common 'yokes' that are placed on people that distort the true gospel?
- d) What yokes are you placing on yourself that show an unbelief that God's grace through Jesus was sufficient for you to be loved, saved, cleansed and accepted by Him? (ie-Jesus + something else)

Note: Please use your fruit to root diagrams for e-k.

- e) What fruit comes forth in your life when you are adding that yoke to yourself?
- f) What lies are you believing in that moment?
- g) What is it you really want from God by doing that?
- h) What gospel treasure are you not believing in that moment?
- i) What is the gospel truth you need to renew your mind in?
- j) What gospel fruit/behaviour can you pray for to replace the sinful fruit?
- k) Spend time in prayer for one another in these areas.

To uphold the true gospel, we must uphold...

Point 2: Gospel UNITY(vv. 19-21)

Question: The gospel life is a united life. Are you putting obstacles in the way of others?

Question #6

- a) **Rd. vv. 19-21:** What does James recommend the council advise the Gentiles to do in order to uphold gospel unity in the church with the Jews and Gentiles? Why do this?
- b) How is upholding the unity we have in the gospel a crucial safeguard against gospel distortion in the church?
- c) What are some possible 'stumbling blocks' that we can offend our brothers and sisters with and hinder their walk with Christ and create division in the church?
- d) Ask the Lord to show you of any areas where you have offended a brother/sister; or may be using your freedom in Christ to put an obstacle in the way of your brother/sister growing in Christ. Repent and ask the Lord if there are any steps He would have you take to get it right with that person.

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Acts 15:1-21...**

- a) ADORATION: Lord, You alone are the God who_____
- b) CONFESSION: Lord, I repent of_____
- c) THANKSGIVING: Lord, I thank you for the gospel that has_____
- d) SUPPLICATION: Lord, I ask that You would help me to uphold the true gospel in Your church by...

Memory Verse:

"But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

-Acts 15:11