



PROCLAIM

MCA



DISCUSSION GUIDE
MARCH 10

Key verse

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Jesus + nothing = everything

Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

Acts 15:10-11

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: ²⁹ You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Acts 15:28-29

"The legalistic Jews willingly gave up insisting that the Gentiles had to be circumcised to be saved, and the Gentiles willingly accepted a change in their eating habits. It was a loving compromise...this kept the church from splitting into extreme 'law' and 'grace' groups."

Warren Wiersbe

SAVED BY GRACE

Opening Thought

In Acts 15 some people were teaching that in order to be saved, Gentiles needed to be circumcised. The truth of the gospel is that we are saved by grace – as a free gift. We trust Jesus, he accepts us, and therefore we walk in obedience to him.

Simply put: Jesus + nothing = everything.

Ice breakers

- What do you tend to overcomplicate?

Dig Deeper

- While the issue of circumcision is not pressing for us today, in what areas do you see a religious mindset that says, "If I obey, then I am accepted by God?"
- Read Acts 15:22-31. What is the tone of the letter? What are its main points? What strikes you from it?
- What things have you wrongly been told you must do in order to be saved?
- In 15:2 there was "no small dissention and debate" over this "Jesus +" teaching. See Galatians 5:1-12. According to Paul, why was this such a big deal?
- James proclaims that we are saved by grace, but still requests that the Gentile believers refrain from deeply offensive pagan practices. How is this different from the false teaching that one must be circumcised in order to be saved?
- What stood out to you from today's sermon?

Closing

The next time you are tempted to think that religious activities play a part in salvation, remember that we do not earn our place in God's kingdom. Thank the Lord that his grace is sufficient!