

Jesus + Anything = A Problem

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. 3 The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. 5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses." 6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

As We Come to this Passage:

Remember that old patterns and habits _____.

Remember that "Grace vs. Law" has been a difficult _____ for _____ people throughout the ages.

I. The Timing of this First Big Meeting

Paul and Barnabas had just _____ from their first adventure and stayed in their home church a "_____."
Acts 14:28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

Most scholars place this meeting at _____ A.D.

Timeline: BC and AD (all dates are approximates!)

Jesus born	Jesus' Death	Saul Converted	First Journey	First Meeting	Second Journey	Third Journey	Paul's Death
4 BC	30 AD	34 AD	46-48	50	50-53	54-58	66 AD

II. The Background to the First Big Meeting

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

"Some men" – they apparently weren't even _____; just people with a particular _____ on Christianity – "self-appointed _____ of orthodoxy."

"Came down from Judea to Antioch" -- This is talking about _____, not direction.

From Judea indicates the "_____ church."

"Teaching the brothers: "Unless . . ." – Jesus _____ doesn't save
"According to . . . Moses" – indicates this is only the _____

Paul and Barnabas had been _____ salvation through Jesus _____ for several _____.

(The Book of Galatians)
Acts 13:38 "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

Paul and Barnabas were now in "_____ dispute and debate" with these teachers from Judea. This teaching went against one of their _____ about Christianity!

So, when you have a strong _____ about something you usually become part of the "_____ " and that happened here.

-- Note that they handled the situation _____!

-- Note that they went directly to the _____!

III. Going to the First Church Meeting

1. On the way, Paul and Barnabas used the opportunity to _____ the _____ of God's grace to the Gentiles and people were _____!

2. When they arrived in Jerusalem they _____ the same things and it appears that it caused _____ in the church.

3. But there is _____ the group of people that says, "But we never did it that way before!" They think that the act of circumcision should be _____ for all men that come to the faith!

Acts 15: 5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.

The issue of circumcision to the Jews:

IV. So, A Few Personal Questions

1. Obedience to God is _____ ! Are you trying to live obediently as a believer?

2. Is there anything that you are "_____ " of other believers to prove their worth or their "_____?"