

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 42
Are Jews and Gentiles Saved the same way?
Acts 15:1-31

SALVATION

is found in no one else for there is

**no other name
given under heaven**

*by which
we must be*

SAVED

ACTS 4:12

Acts 15:1-31 (NASB)

Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” (2) And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. (3) Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren. (4) When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. (5) But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.” (6) The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.

What's Issue?

Should new Believers from Gentile Backgrounds become Jews first ... that is

Should they convert to some form of Judaism (of course these guys want folks to become Pharisees ...) and then Receive Jesus Christ?

After a Gentile Person is Saved .. Should he / she make sure that he/she follows all the strict Jewish Traditions and the Laws of Moses? (that is really what they are saying)

Today – When we share the Gospel are do we have to make sure that the newly Born Again Christian needs to adopt all of our “Christian Traditions” (those not actually in the Bible?)

The Issue Goes Deeper ...

It has Everything to Do with COVENANT ...

The Jews / Israel was under the Mosaic Covenant ...

But after the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) ... the NEW COVENANT was brought to Earth – The Holy Spirit cause the Church to be BORN ...

**We know from Jeremiah 31:31-33 / Ezek. 36:25-27 /
and the book of Hebrews**

The New Covenant in the Messiah of Israel – Jesus Christ is DIFFERENT and NOT Like the Mosaic Covenant ... and Gentiles are to brought into this New Covenant

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**The New Covenant in the Messiah of Israel – Jesus Christ is
DIFFERENT and NOT Like the Mosaic Covenant ... and Gentiles
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**No more need of the Tabernacle/Temple – we are the Temple
No more need of the Levitical Priesthood – Jesus is the New High
Priest according to Melchizedek, etc. (Hebrews 7:1ff)**

**So, what about other parts of the Old Mosaic Covenant ... ?
Is now OK to Murder? (what about the 10 commandments, etc.)**

Let's see what Peter has to say about all of this ...

Acts 15:1-31 (NASB)

(7) After there had been MUCH DEBATE, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. (8) And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, JUST AS HE ALSO DID TO US; (9) and He made NO distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. (10) Now therefore WHY do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? (11) But we believe that we are SAVED through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the SAME WAY as they also are.” (12) All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

SAVED in CHRIST by the HOLY SPIRIT ... In the SAME WAY ...

So, those 120 Jews up in the upper Room on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) – were SAVED in the exactly the SAME WAY as those Gentile God-fearers → Cornelius and his household in Caesarea in Acts 10 (ref. 11:1-18),

Acts 11:17-18 – “Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” (18) When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the REPENTANCE that leads to LIFE.”

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Acts 11:17-18 – “Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after **believing** in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” (18) When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the **Gentiles** also the **repentance** that leads to life.”

All humans are **SAVED by Christ in the Same Way ...**

Surrendered, Repentant TRUST, Personal Trust in Jesus Christ on the basis of His Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection
God, the Holy Spirit comes and lives inside of the New Believer in Christ – Born Again, Born of the Spirit → **Jew and/or Gentile**

Acts 15:1-31 (NASB)

(13) After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, “Brethren, listen to me. (14) Simeon [Peter] has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name. (15) With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, (16) ‘AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT, (17) SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,’ (18) SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO. (19) “Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, (20) but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.

Acts 15:1-31 (NASB)

(21) For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.” (22) Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas--Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, (23) and they sent this letter by them, “The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings. (24) Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls, (25) it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, (26) men who have risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (27) Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also report the same things by word of mouth.

Acts 15:1-31 (NASB)

(28) For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: (29) that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell.” (30) So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. (31) When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

(THANK GOD WE ARE FREE AT LAST)

SAVED in CHRIST by the HOLY SPIRIT ... in the SAME WAY ...

After Much DEBATE and DISCUSSION ...

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There is NO hint of Gentiles needing to “Follow” or “OBEY” the Mosaic Law after they come to Christ NOR to maintain their relationship with Christ, thereafter.

Those few “essentials” are actually Biblical. Those were ordained by the Holy Spirit via the church in Jerusalem.

Yes, they still apply today – in Christ, in the body of Christ.

SAVED in CHRIST by the HOLY SPIRIT ... in the SAME WAY ...

After Much DEBATE and DISCUSSION ...

- 1. Stay away from anything that relates to IDOLATRY**
- 2. Avoid Drinking Blood, using raw blood to cook with etc.**
- 3. Avoid the Strangled → Meat that was not drained**
- 4. Avoid all types of Sexual Sins**

This is in addition to your normal Daily Walk with Christ –

This is for your health, but also as a Witness to the Lost, as well

Your Daily Trusting Personal Relationship with Christ

Your Fellowship relationship with other believers (Church)

Your Witness to the Lost around you.

No need to ADD any Traditions, NO New Rules, etc.

Today when we share **the Gospel** ...

We must share the Word of God, Alone ...

We must present the **Truth** per God's Word Alone

We can use reason, examples, etc.

but our aim is **Presenting Christ**

our aim is to help sinners see that they are sinners ...

so that they will come to the **Cross of Christ**

We are not aiming at forming a new religion or creating new religious traditions, etc.

On the Mission Field → we are **NOT** to Bring our American version of Christianity to the natives of some tribe – just the **WORD** of God –
the Truth and the Gospel according to God's Word, ALONE