

Acts

Gail Arterburn –2024

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am
To be discussed –06/17/24

Lesson 16
Acts 15:1-35

1. Read Acts 15:1-5. How did the congregations in Antioch and Jerusalem differ? What was the issue that brought about the Jerusalem council?
2. Keep in mind this controversy was among believers. Why do you think the Jewish Christians from Judea were so insistent that Paul's Gentile Christians must be circumcised?
3. Why did Paul so strongly oppose the circumcision of Gentile Christians? What was at stake?
4. How is the teaching of salvation by grace alone through faith alone compromised by some believers today?
5. Read Acts 15:6-12. What was Paul's side of the story? (vv. 3-4, 12) What was the immediate objection from a group of believing Pharisees? (v. 5) What did the apostles and elders decide to do in order to resolve the issue? (v. 6)
6. What points did Peter make when addressing the council? What was his conclusion?
7. Read Acts 15:13-21. What judgment did James make and for what reasons?
8. Read Acts 15:22-35. How was the decision of the council made known to the Gentile believers? How was it received?
9. What principles are found in this account for resolving disagreements among Christians on (a) essentials of the faith and (b) non-essentials and matters of personal conscience?