

WHITES RUN BAPTIST CHURCH

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Announcements

- **TONIGHT! Sunday, February 20, 6:00 PM** “A Night of Prayer for Our Nation” at General Butler Conference Center. Local churches are gathering for a special service focused on praying for the needs of our nation.
- **Food Pantry:** Don’t forget to bring donations for the food pantry. A tote in the foyer is available to drop them off.

No Small Dissension, Acts 15:1-21

Two Issues

- Is it necessary to keep all the law of Moses in order to be saved? (This time)
- Is it necessary to keep all the law of Moses in order to be faithful? (Next time)

The Judaizers

- Acts 15:1, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” See Genesis 17; Exodus 4:24-26, 12:48; Leviticus 12:3; Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6; Joshua 5.
- The relevance of this passage: The modern-day equivalents, “You cannot be saved...“...unless you belong to this group...unless you do this ritual...unless you obey these rules.”

Peter

- Peter gives a God-centered account of his experience, Acts 15:7-11: God chose...God bore witness...God made no distinction...[God] cleansed their hearts.
- Peter sums this up in a reversal of the normal order of things - Jew first, then Gentile - by saying, “we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” Acts 15:11.

- Peter’s conclusion: It is by grace that we are saved, apart from the works of the Law, because that is how it went down in Cornelius’ house.

Barnabas and Paul

In Acts 15:12, Barnabas and Paul relate “signs and wonders” God did through them in their ministry to the Gentiles. This is an argument that their gospel message (salvation by grace through faith) is endorsed by God. See also Galatians 2:1-10.

James

- In Acts 15:13-21, James argues from scripture that the inclusion of the Gentiles was prophesied citing Amos 9:11-12. See also Genesis 12:3, 49:10, Deuteronomy 32:21; Psalm 2:8, 86:9; Isaiah 2:2-4, 9:2, 42:4, 49:6; Daniel 7:14; Haggai 2:7; Zechariah 2:11; Matthew 8:11.
- James concludes with a four-fold recommendation for Gentile behavior. Abstain from: Things polluted by idols; sexual immorality; what has been strangled; blood

Conclusions

- Salvation is “by grace through faith” plus nothing. This belief is called monergism. See Ephesians 2:1-10, 1:3-14; Matthew 19:26. Also see whitesrun.org/what-we-believe.
- Adding anything to the work of Christ to accomplish salvation is called synergism. Synergism is flatly refuted here in Acts 15 in Galatians 1-6.

Objections

- So we can live how we want? See James 2:14-26; John 14:15, 21; Romans 6:1-14; 1 John 3:4, 8; Revelation 21:8.
- Don’t some verses add something to faith for salvation? Acts 2:38, 3:19, 20:21, 26:20; Romans 10:9; Luke 12:8; Matthew 10:22, 24:13. Faith/belief is the common element. All additions are appropriate responses to the faith or “deeds in keeping with...repentance.” See Hebrews 11 and Romans 5.

Encouragements

- Trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.
- Examine yourself for the fruits of this salvation.

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