



Discussion Questions for *Acts 15* “*Are We Clear on the Good News?*”  
Week of February 14th - , 2010

**Warm Up** What’s your greatest hesitation in sharing your faith with others?

- **Acts 15:1** served as a key Scripture for Sunday’s sermon. Just as certain men ‘taught the brethren’, that “**Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved**”, so there are a variety of ways that false religions and philosophies say a person must be saved. What are the most popular ways to fill in the blank “Unless you \_\_\_\_\_ you cannot be saved” in our culture today? What did George communicate, from the Scriptures, is the proper way to fill in this blank?
- Read the parable of the rich young ruler in **Matthew 19:16-26**. What strikes you most in this reading and why? According to this story, as well as **Galatians 1:11,12** - with whom does the good news of salvation originate?
- Identify any other important dimensions of *salvation* you see from **Eph. 2:4-9** and **Romans 10:9-13**
- Sometimes people cite **Acts 15:36-41** as grounds for “biblical quarreling”. David Guzik writes, “Wherever there is sharp contention, *someone* is wrong, and usually there is wrong on both sides. There can be no way *both* Paul and Barnabas were each walking in the Spirit on this issue!” Since Luke does not tell us in Acts who was “in the wrong” we shouldn’t seek to figure it out either. What can we learn, however, about Paul and Barnabas’s personalities and hearts through this? What do you find positive about each?
- John Stott said of the events recording in **Acts 15** that, “Gentile converts were being welcomed into the fellowship by baptism without circumcision. They were becoming Christians without becoming Jews.” This must have seriously irritated some of the more “religious” Jews of the day. Human nature is to become either **legalistic** or **liberal** in our approach to spiritual life. We either feel compelled to be *stringent rule keepers* believing that our best efforts will please God, or we serve Tolerance as the highest good and fall into the “all roads lead to God” mentality. Discuss the error of each of these types of thinking and why the Gospel of Jesus Christ is so different?

**Wrap Up:** Close in prayer for one another. In what ways do you feel particularly in need of Christ’s touch tonight?