

THRUST

“LAW AND FAITH”

Acts 15:1-35

June 4, 2017

Salvation by grace extends grace.

I. The Gospel Preserved (1-18)

A. The Problem: Grace + ??? (1-5)

B. Salvation: By faith through the grace of Jesus, plus nothing. (6-11)

Salvation without burdens.

C. Salvation without barriers. (12-18)

Salvation is available to all, by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Jesus alone.

II. Harmony Protected (19-35)

A. Foundational truth: by grace, through faith, + nothing. (19)

B. Salvation that is received by grace, is lived by extending grace. (20-21)

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

“JUSTIFIED BY FAITH”

Galatians 1 - 3

Historical Timeline:

The letter to the Galatian churches was probably written sometime between 49–53AD. On Paul’s first missionary journey, he had traveled through the Roman province of South Galatia planting multiple churches. He will visit some of these churches as he begins his second missionary journey. But this letter was written to them to address the essential truth of the one gospel.

Passage Overview:

The letter to the Galatians was written to defend the gospel. Paul states over and over that there is no other gospel than the one, which they had heard when he was with them and preached to them. That gospel is that salvation is provided by the grace of God through Jesus. It comes through faith. It is the fulfillment of God’s promise to provide an offspring, Jesus, through Abraham who would offer salvation and blessing to all people. Nothing can be added to the complete work of Jesus for us.

The distortion of the gospel that the Galatians were facing was the addition of rules and regulations derived from the Old Testament Law. Paul tells them that if they want to be justified by the Law, they must obey all of it. If they want to grow in Christ by adding laws and regulations to the grace through which they were saved, they are no longer fully dependent on Him, but are trusting in what they do.

The first three chapters of Galatians is a clear theological rebuttal of the idea that we must or should add anything to the work of Christ in the hope of being saved or of being better Christians. Jesus’ work, offered through His grace, and appropriated by simple faith is the good news.

The Law came after the promise. It was a guardian, protecting us from ourselves. It clearly revealed to us that we can never fulfill it on our own. So it created a longing within us for a Savior. Jesus fulfills God’s promise to us. Jesus fulfilled the Law and paid the price for those of us who can’t keep it. His work is complete. It is all we need.

Reading for Next Week: Galatians 1-3