

The True Gospel of Grace
Acts 15:1 – 35 | Dale Sutherland – Lead Pastor

A.W. Tozer

“Grace is the good pleasure of God that inclines him to bestow benefits on the undeserving.”

God’s Grace = Unmerited favor.

1 – The Gospel perverted.

Acts 15:1 – 2

“Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: ‘Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.’ This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.”

Acts 15:24

“We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.”

2. The Gospel clarified.

Acts 15:3 – 11

“The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, ‘The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.’ The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: ‘Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.’”

3. The Gospel demonstrated.

Acts 15:12

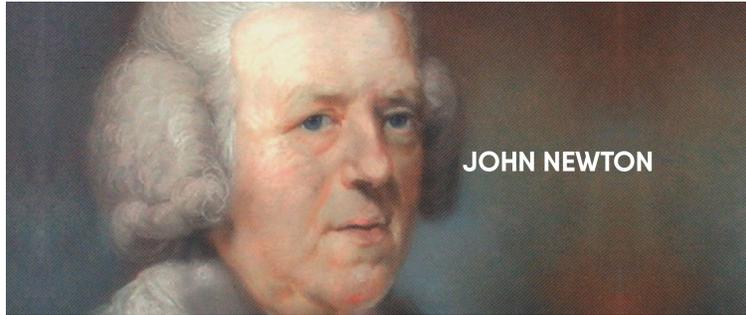
“The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.”

Acts 15:31 – 32

“The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message. Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.”

John Newton

"My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things; that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great savior."



- 1 – Be aware of false teaching in the church.
- 2 – Be aware of your own sin.
- 3 – Be aware of His love for the nations.
- 4 – Be aware of the daily power of grace.