

'Rule Breaker'

ACTS 15

Sunday 25th October 2020

Key Scriptures:

Acts 15

Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 22:35-40

1 John 5:3

Summary:

Acts chapter 15 represents one of the most pivotal chapters in all of the New Testament. Contained within it is a theological and doctrinal milestone, the truth of which we are still living in today. The leaders of the church in Acts are presented with a question which has the potential to threaten the integrity of the gospel. This question is essentially, **Is the grace of God enough to be saved?**

The people posing the question believe and are teaching that the Gentile believers should also follow the law, that they need to add in all the rules of the law on top of their faith. As a Gentile believer, it would be easy to think that your salvation by grace was invalid because you didn't follow the rules of the law. But as we discovered on Sunday, the weight of these rules were too heavy to carry.

Some of us add heavy rules to ours and others' faith which we and they were never designed to carry. By doing this, we inadvertently fall into a practice of faith where the work of Jesus isn't enough. Jesus IS enough and we are saved by His grace, just as we are. So if we find ourselves adding things on top of that, maybe we need to break out of the rules.

Questions:

1. What, if anything, has stuck with you from Chris' message on Sunday?
2. As a group, what is your collective understanding of the gospel?
3. Can you relate to the heavy weight of added rules and conditions on top of your faith? If so, what might those things be in your life?
4. Going back to some 'simple' questions that Chris asked on Sunday from Matthew 22, how is your love doing right now? Love for God, love for yourself and love for the people around you?
5. What might a mindset shift from 'I have to' towards 'I get to' look like in your relationship with God?