



# GUARDING THE GOSPEL

## A DEBATE WORTH HAVING

ACTS 15:1-5

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • June 18 & 19, 2022 • Acts, week 71 • Msg. 22-19

**Acts 15:1** But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." **2** And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. **3** So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. **4** When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. **5** But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses." (ESV)

1. Know \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.1-2a)

2. Get \_\_\_\_\_ (v.2b)

3. Work \_\_\_\_\_ (v.3a)

4. Let \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.3b-4)

5. Know \_\_\_\_\_ (v.5)



# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **2 Peter 2:1-3**. What does this passage do to prepare you for the rest of your Christian life? How would your mindset be different if this wasn't the enduring forecast for the church age?
2. Read **Galatians 1:6-10**. While we should pray for peace and unity among those who profess to be in Christ, how can this passage encourage you to be ready to contentedly and resolutely defend the gospel?
3. Read **2 Peter 3:15-17**. Why are these debates and disputes about the central issues of Christianity so important, regardless of how unpleasant they might be?
4. Read **Titus 3:9-11**. While our study of Acts 15 is about essential disputes and debates, how would you differentiate those from the quarrels of a sinfully divisive and contentious person?
5. Read **2 Peter 3:18** and **2 Timothy 2:15-16**. What will you do to increase your ability to know when to engage in a godly debate and how to rightly understand God's word in doing so?

## *This Week's Bible Reading Schedule*

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**  
*Neh.9-11 & Ac.4:1-22*

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**  
*Neh.12-13 & Ac.4:23-37*

**June 21<sup>st</sup>**  
*Esth.1-3 & Ac.5:1-16*

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Esth.4-6 & Ac.5:17-42*

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Esth.7-10 & Ac.6*

**June 24<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 1-3 & Ac.7:1-19*

**June 25<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 4-6 & Ac.7:20-43*

**June 26<sup>th</sup>**  
*Job 7-9 & Ac.7:44-60*

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 06-34 – **Why Don't We Have to Keep All Those Old Testament Ceremonies?**  
Msg. 20-02 – **Telling the Truth**  
Msg. 13-05 – **Loving Enough to Tell the Truth About Hell**  
Msg. 10-05 – **Evangelistic Opposition: How to Respond to Objections**  
Msg. 06-35 – **What's with All the Animal Sacrifices, and Why No More?**  
Msg. 06-33 – **Why Did We Need a New Covenant Anyway?**  
Msg. 13-09 – **A Torn Curtain**

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Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Carson, D.A. & John Woodbridge. **Scripture and Truth**. Baker Books, 1992.  
Cowan, Steven & Terry Wilder, eds. **In Defense of the Bible**. B & H Academic, 2013.  
Geivett, Doug & Gary Habermas. **In Defense of Miracles: A Comprehensive Case for God's Action in History**. IVP, 1997.  
Gregory, Joel, et al. **The Proceedings of the Conference on Biblical Inerrancy**. Broadman Press, 1987.  
Hordern, William E. **A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology**. Macmillan Publishing Co., 1955.  
Lindsell, Harold. **The Battle for the Bible**. Zondervan, 1976.  
McDowell, Josh and Don Stewart. **Handbook of Today's Religions**. Thomas Nelson, 1992.  
Nash, Ronald H. **Worldviews in Conflict: Choosing Christianity in a World of Ideas**. Zondervan, 1992.  
Pearcy, Nancy. **Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity**. Crossway, 2008.  
Ramm, Bernard. **Protestant Biblical Interpretation**. Baker Books, 1970.  
Rhodes, Ron. **Handbook on Cults & New Religions: What Do They Believe?** Harvest House Publishers, 2005.  
Schaff, Philip. **The Creeds of Christendom: 3 Volumes**. Baker Books, 1984.  
Sire, James W. **Scripture Twisting: Twenty Ways the Cults Misread the Bible**. InterVarsity Press, 1980.  
Stein, Robert H. **A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules**. Baker Books, 1994.