

"You Can't Miss This"

Acts 15:1-21

August 30, 2015

INTRO:

"One small step for man..."

Oct. 31, 1517 (95 thesis)

U.S. Supreme Court decision on:

- Prayer out of schools
- Roe v. Wade
- Homosexual marriage

Review CONTEXT:

A. Acts 1:8 (local, regional, global)

B. Paul & Barnabas

C. Galatia & the Gospel

T/S: "...like creating Everest..."

Text Outline

v.1. = Deceived

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.”

- Review last week

"some men" vs "brothers"

- * Galatians
- * 2 Peter
- * John
- * Jude
- * Nehemiah
 - Sanballat
 - Tobiah
 - (some) Nobles

Who are YOU listening to?

- * Some need to stop listening...
 - ...in bad churches
 - ...to bad teachers
- *** Titus 1:10-16 *****
- *** 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *****

Some men = lollipops @ playground
(Itching ears want...)

Nehemiah 4:9... “*Pray to God & post a guard...*”

v.2. = Dissension

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.

Dissension & Debate... fighting for truth in love!

Paul & Barnabas were wearing and “fitting” God’s full armor for their fellow brothers and sisters...

By contrast, most churches today are sizing people for little more than pajamas & caskets!

- JDP

NOTE: 160+ N.T. ref. to faith alone

See Sampling

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

1Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8and last of all he appeared to me also

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Galatians 2:16

we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

John 1:12

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Romans 4:4-5

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. 5However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Galatians 3:26

for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast. 10For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

VIDEO: “Mark Dever – What Is the Gospel?”

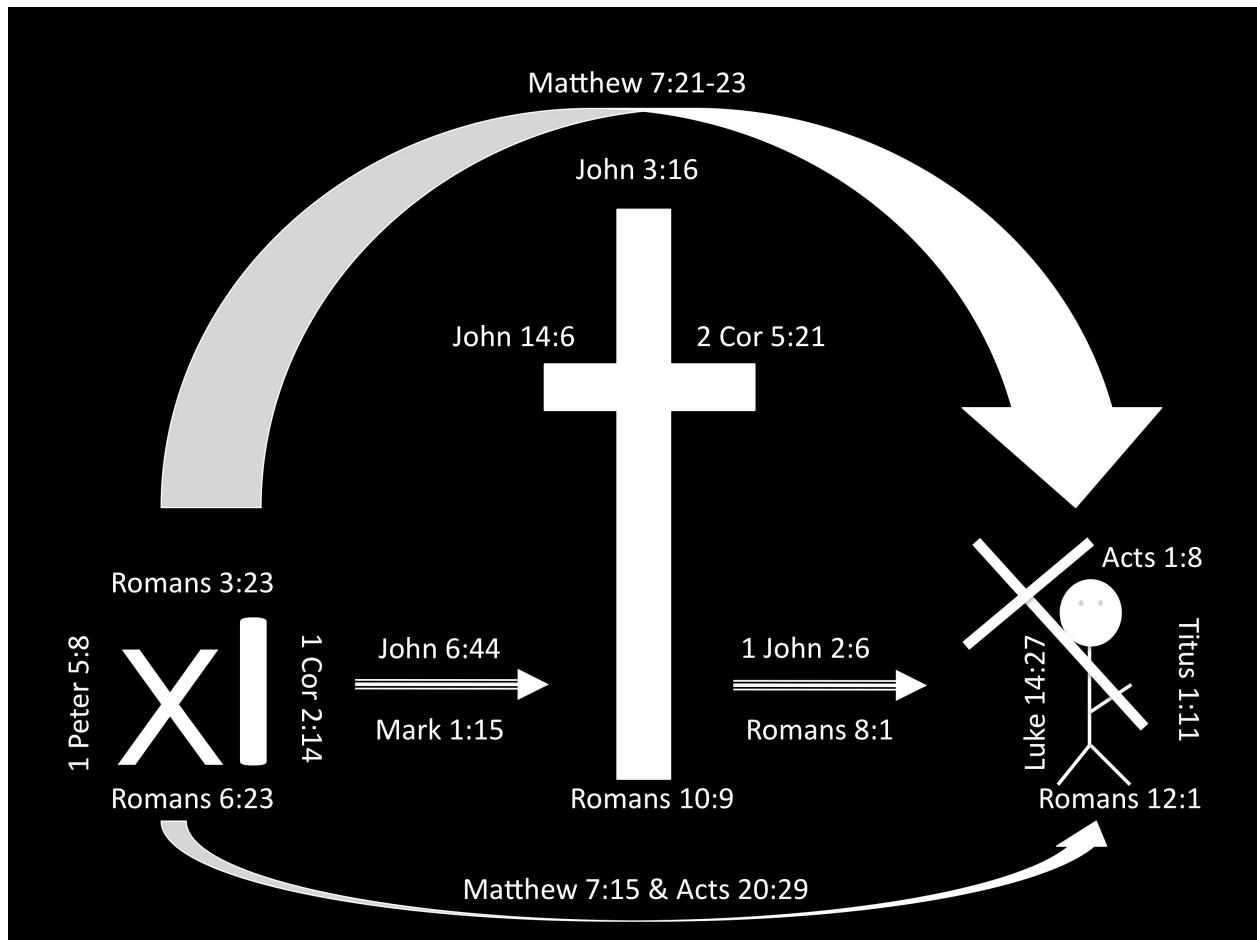
v.3. = Disciples

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.

*** Definition of Disciple = set apart & sent one

*** "described in detail" = full Gospel

(see "Stickman Gospel" graphic)



VIDEO:

“Ligon Duncan – Gospel Non-negotiables”

v.4. = Done

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.

*** See relational dynamics Antioch/Jerusalem

*** See same said in Acts 14 / Antioch

*** Key:

“...GOD has done....” (grace is perfect)

Illustration: Louvre

1. Mona with green eyes & a hat
2. Venus with arms & without a head
3. Gucci watches (perfect but for insides)

“God has done WITH us...”

v.5. = Delusional

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.”

*** Walk through Romans...

Romans 1:1...

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Romans 1:16-18

16For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” 18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Faith is born at one's funeral.

- JDP

VIDEO: “Personal Gospel” (stickman)

Romans 3:19ff

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Romans 8:9

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Romans 10:9 - 17

if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

11For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

14How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” 16But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” 17So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

v.6. = Deliberation

The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

v.7a = Debate

And after there had been much debate...

*** Quest = Truth

*** Question = How is one saved?

*** Quandary = Jesus "+" (Pharisees)
 Jesus "-" (Rich Young Ruler)
 Jesus alone (biblical truth)

TRUTH = We are saved...

...by Grace alone

...thru Faith alone

...in Christ alone

...for the glory of God alone!

vv.7b-11 = (Peter) Distinction (none)

7And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, 9and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. 10Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

EXPERT

NOTE: grace by faith = level spiritual ground

There is NO inner & outer court in Christianity - JDP

v.12 = (Paul & Barnabas) "Dune-i-mous"

And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

EXPERIENCED

*** Acts 1:8 "Power revealed"

*** Acts 1:8 "Power received"

< Read Romans 15:18-19 >

For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

vv.13-19 = (James) Definitive

13After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. 14Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. 15And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, (in Amos 9)

16"After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, 17that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things 18known from of old.'

19Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God,

EXPRESSED

*** Exegete Amos 9

Theme: God's global justice

3 "Woe!" oracles included

"Thus says the Lord" (chapters 1&2)

"Hear this word" (of God) (chapters 3-6)

Visions of impending wrath (chapters 7-9)

Passage PURPOSE = v.12 "all the nations"

vv.20-21 = Deference (weaker brother)

20but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. 21For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

*** Apply Corinthians 9's "weaker brother" principle

So....

***why is all this so
hard to live out?***

VIDEO: "Odd Couple"

2 Corinthians 13:5

***Examine yourselves, to see whether you are
in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not
realize this about yourselves, that Jesus
Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to
meet the test!***

Stickman (post cross tension)

Healthy, necessary tension

You = maybe Demas or John 6:66

They = maybe Judas or John 6:66

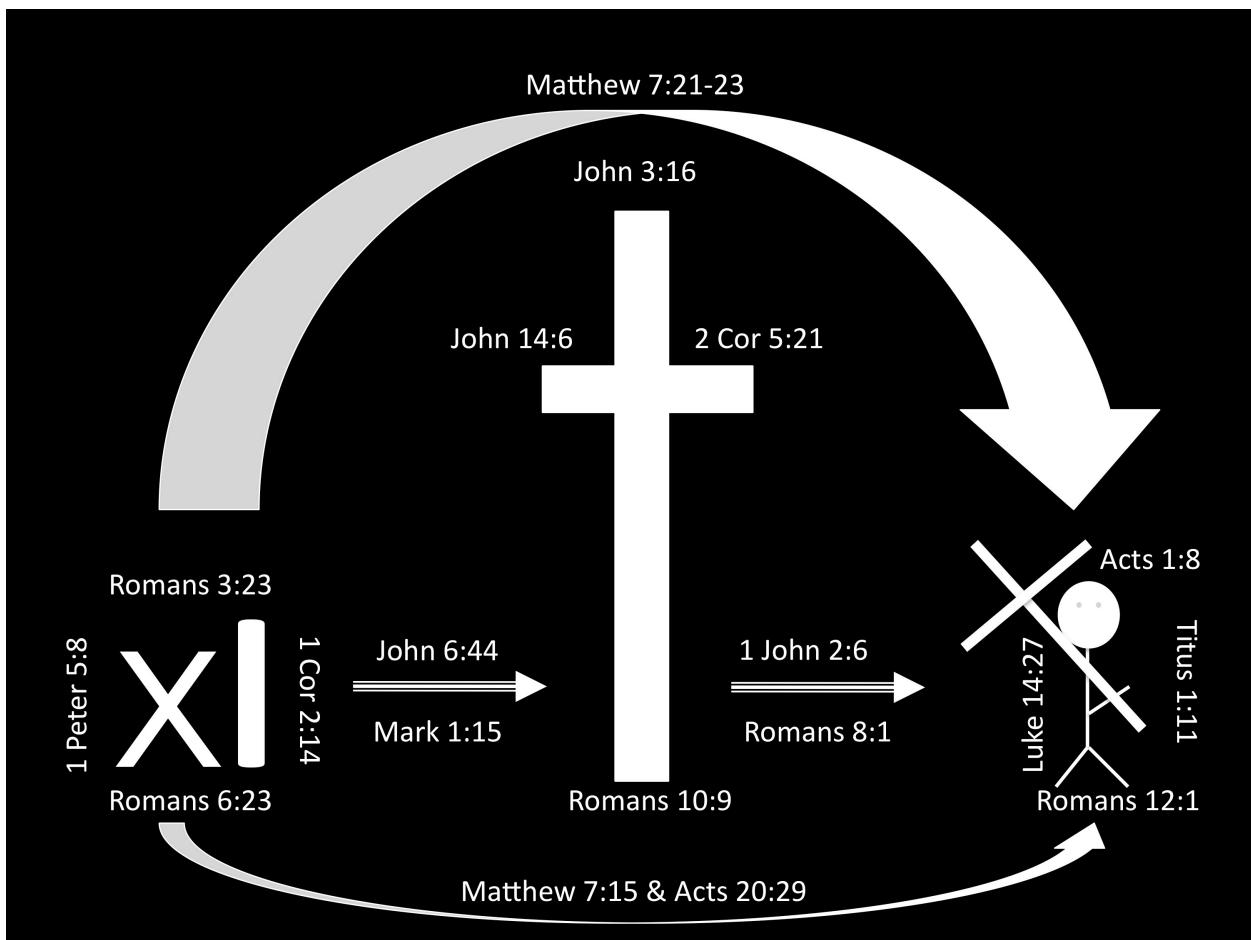
NOTE: Good works do NOT serve as an “entrance fee” to the Gospel... but rather, good works are the “exit fruit” of the Gospel of God’s grace!

Romans 7:14-25 (“The War Within”)

- **The Wonder of it all**

Presentation & Prostitution passage

46 first-person pronouns



- **The Warriors** (admit weakness)

Outer man (flesh)

Inner man (faith)

See Ephesians 3:16

I ask that by the riches of His glory, He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being,



NO MATTER WHAT!

Real Christians

“Whoever does not carry their own cross & follow Me cannot be My disciple.”

- Jesus

Luke 14:27

Attitude toward **vs** Absence of... sin tells true story of the heart!

- see attitudes

- see actions

- see aftermath

***** Thomas Watson (Quote on sin)**

“A hypocrite may leave sin, yet love it; as a serpent casts its skin... while keeping its sting & venom. But, (by contrast), a sanctified person not only leaves sin, but hates it.”

- The War

• Galatians 5:17

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

- * This is NOT an equal battle... This IS like a T-Rex vs wiener dog
- * David/Goliath (again!)

David is giant slayer

David is giant sinner

David/Paul love God

David/Paul hate sin

* "...breast plate shot at but not through..."
- Thomas Watson

* Too many churches are sizing people up
for (and putting on) pajamas vs armor...
sizing them up & fitting them for caskets vs
kingdom service.

QUOTE: “Men who **only believe** their depravity **but do not hate it** are no further than the devil on the road to heaven...
(Moreover,) it is not my being corrupt that proves I’m a Christian, nor knowing that I am corrupt, but I know I am a Christian because I hate my corruption. It is my agonizing death-struggle with my corruptions that proves me to be a living child of God... Now these two natures will not cease to struggle as long as we are in this world. The old nature will never give up – it will never ask for a truce, nor seek a peace treaty.” - Charles Spurgeon

It's not the absence of sin that reveals the true children of God... it's their ATTITUDE toward sin - JDP

- **The Way** = 7:24-25

See your sin...

See your need for Savior

("...for the joy set before Him...")

"...this body of death..."

- Murderers had to carry the corpse of the one they murdered
- Christians live with the corpse of their flesh still on/in them...
- Christ took OUR corpse on HIS cross!

Thus, the battle is the blessing!

*** Churches ought not be waiting rooms... but WAR rooms

*** Pray & obey...

VIDEO: “Gospel Graffiti”

Let’s Pray!