

Unstoppable – Pt. 23

Discuss –

- 1) What does the church or the culture try to add to the gospel today?**
- 2) What burden has grace freed you to lay down? Have you done that?**
- 3) How does the gospel help us avoid both legalism and license? How does it prevent us from making it difficult for people to come to Jesus?**
- 4) Why is the short list in Acts 15:20 important? How does that help us understand Christian growth today?**
- 5) How can this passage from Acts 15 help the church be unstoppable today?**

Close in prayer.

Scripture From The Sermon

Acts 15:1-21; 30&31

Some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² And when Paul and Barnabas had ^[a]great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. ³ Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren. ⁴ When they arrived at Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and the elders came together to ^[b]look into this ^[c]matter. ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that ^[d]in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; ⁹ and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

¹² All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

¹³ After they had stopped speaking, ^[e]James answered, saying, “Brethren, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name. ¹⁵ With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,

¹⁶ ‘After these things I will return,
And I will rebuild the ^[f]tabernacle of David which has fallen,
And I will rebuild its ruins,
And I will restore it,

¹⁷ So that the rest of ^[g]mankind may seek the Lord,
And all the Gentiles ^[h]who are called by My name,’

¹⁸ Says the Lord, who ^[i]makes these things known from long ago.

¹⁹ Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, ²⁰ but that we write to them that they abstain from ^[j]things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is

strangled and from blood. ²¹ For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since ^[k]he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

Jeremiah 31:3

The Lord appeared to ^[a]him from afar, *saying*,
“I have loved you with an everlasting love;
Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

Prov. 29:25

The fear of man ^[m]brings a snare,
But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,