



THE ESSENTIAL GOSPEL

March 26, 2023 // Acts 15:1-35 // Dr. Ron Jones

“Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.” MICHELANGELO

To reveal the essential gospel, just chip away any hint of _____ that doesn't look like Jesus. What remains is a breathtaking masterpiece that beautifully portrays the _____ of God.

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.” ACTS 15:1-5 ESV

No theological debate is more important than the one about the nature and essence of the _____.

Peter stood up and said to them ... “But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” ACTS 15:11 ESV

“For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹ that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.” ACTS 15:28-29 ESV

The four “rules” they sent to the church in Antioch simply encouraged all followers of Jesus to live _____ lives and build _____ between Jewish and Gentile Christians.

Principally Grace

1.

2.

3.