

chapters

- 13a *I've Been Everywhere*
- 13b *The Old Rugged Cross*
- 14 *Eye of the Tiger*
- 15a *Amazing Grace***
- 15b *Kingdom Work*
- 16 *Every Opportunity*
- 17 *Believe*
- 18 *Together*
- 19 *Motives*
- 20-21 *Commit*
- 22 *Witness*
- 26 *Respond*
- 27 *Trust*

Acts of the Apostles

September 22, 2024

Acts 15:11 – NO! We believe it is thru
 the **Grace** of our Lord Jesus
 that we are saved, just as t



Amira Willighagen ~ Live in Concert ~ Amazing Grace
 32M views · 6y ago ...more

First Apostle's Creed



Jerusalem—capital of Israel
 Founded c. 1,000 B.C. by King David

Paul's Missionary Journeys

	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Sept 1	13a	<i>I've Been Everywhere</i>	Paul to Paphos on Cyprus & Sorcerer Elymus
Sept 8	13b	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	Paul Gains Ear of Whole City of Pisidian Antioch
Sept 15	14	<i>Eye of the Tiger</i>	Paul & Barnabas Divide Iconium, Flee to Lystra & Derbe, – Beaten in Lystra, Flee to Derbe then <i>RETURN</i>
Sept 22	15a	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Paul & Barnabas to Jerusalem for 1st Church Council
Sept 29	15b	Kingdom Work	Paul, Silas, & Timothy Thru Macedonia
Oct 6	16	Every Opportunity	Paul & Crew to Phrygia, Troas, Philippi, Convert Lydia, Paul & Silas Beaten, Jailed, Earthquake Freed
Oct 13	17	Believe	Paul & Silas Thessalonica, Berea, Athens' Areopagus
Oct 20	18	Together	Paul to Corinth, Meets Aquila & Priscilla, to Ephesus
Oct 27	19	Motives	Paul in Ephesus w Big Miracles – Riot x “The Way”
Nov 3	20-21	Commit	Paul Hunted Thru Greece, Ephesus, to Jerusalem
Nov 10	22-24	Witness	Paul—Roman Citizen, Sanhedrin, to Governor Felix
Nov 17	25-26	Respond	Paul to Festus, Then Paul's Words Impress Agrippa
Nov 24	27-28	Trust	Paul's Storm-Rocking Trip to Rome

**Paul, Barnabas, Peter, James Confirm for The Church ...
Send a Letter to Antioch in Syria**

Our Church Foundations

Jerusalem—capital of Israel
Founded c. 1,000 B.C. by King David

Act 15 - c. AD 49-50
First Church Council
AD 70 Temple Destroyed
by Titus





**AD 70 Temple
Destroyed by Titus**
April 14 – Sept 8, AD 70
4 months, 3 weeks, 4 days

*Destruction of the
Temple in Jerusalem*
Francesco Hayez, 1867

Acts 15:1-35 – First Church Council on Circumcision

Acts 15 – Paul & Barnabas Tour Iconium, Lystra, Derbe

15:1-21 Church Council on Circumcision Salvation

15:22-35 Jerusalem Church Council Letter to Antioch



Next week . . .

**15:36-41 Paul & Barnabas Split – Paul Takes Silas to Cilicia
Barnabas Takes John Mark to Cyprus**

15:36 – Begins Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey

Book of Acts – the Early Church

1 Intro – Theophilus, Appearances, Ascension

2-12 Peter – Church from Jerusalem to Antioch

2-7 Jerusalem – Peter, John, Ananias & Sapphira, Stephen

8 Samaria – Paul persecutes, Philip, Simon

9 Conversion of Paul

10-12 Conversion of Cornelius, Peter vision of sheets



13-28 Paul – Church from Antioch to Rome

You are HERE

13 – 14 1st Missionary Journey – Saul/Paul & Barnabas

15:1-35 1st Church Council in Jerusalem

15:36 – 18:22 2nd Missionary Journey of Paul

18:23 – 21:16 3rd Missionary Journey of Paul

21:17 – 23 Paul to Jerusalem

24 – 26 Paul to Caesarea ... 27-28 Paul to Rome

13:1 – 14:28

Paul's *FIRST* Missionary Journey

13:1-12 Cyprus

14:1-7 Iconium

13:13-52 Pisidia Antioch 14:8-28 Lystra, Derbe, to Antioch

15:1-35

Jerusalem & First Church Council

15:36 – 18:22

Paul's *SECOND* Missionary Journey

15:36 – 16:10

Antioch to Troas

16:11-40

Troas to Philippi

17:1-34

Philippi to Thessalonica to Athens

18:1-22

Athens to Corinth

18:23 – 21:16

Paul's *THIRD* Missionary Journey

18:23 – 19:41

Ephesian Pentecost

20:1 – 21:16

Macedonia to Troas, Athens, Corinth, return

21:17 – 28:31

Paul in Route to & in Rome

21:17 – 23:35

In Jerusalem

24:1 – 26:32

In Caesarea

27:1 – 28:15

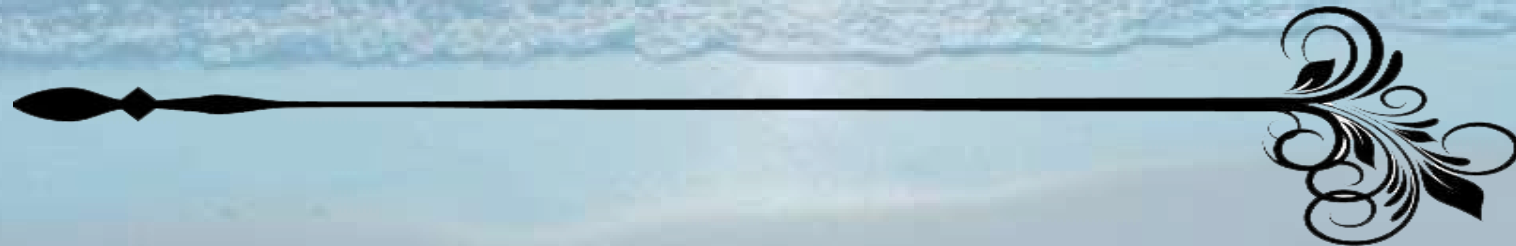
Voyage to Rome

28:16-31

Ministry in Rome

Preface Key Verse Acts – 15:28

**It seemed good to the
Holy Spirit and to us *NOT*
to **BURDEN** you with anything
beyond the following requirements**



Alternate Title

To Circumcise or Not To

That is the question

Jerusalem Council Decided

in about A.D. 49-50



Alternate Title #2

Case of the Kingdom Cutters



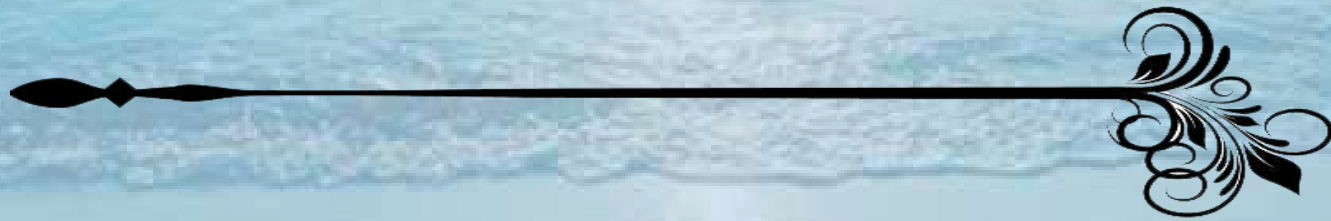
YIKES

Must be CUT to be SAVED?



Key Verse – Acts 15:11

**No! We believe it is
through the GRACE of our
Lord Jesus that we are SAVED**



1st Apostle's Creed

**C. H. Spurgeon called Acts 15:11 the “Apostle’s Creed”
in sermon #765, in 1867 volume, Metropolitan Tabernacle**

Inimitable Spurgeon said on Acts 15:11:

You notice it begins with, “We believe.”

**We will call it, then, the “Apostle’s Creed,” and
we may rest assured that it has quite as clear a right to
that title as that highly esteemed composition ... called the
“Nicene, or Apostle’s Creed.”**

Peter is speaking for the rest, and he says, “We believe.”

Well, Peter, what do you believe?

We are all attention. Peter’s answer is [Acts 15:11],

**“We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
we shall be saved, even as they.”**



C. H. Spurgeon called Acts 15:11 the “Apostle’s Creed”

**There is a great deal of talk in our day—foolish,
vainglorious, idiotic, senseless talk, as we think,
about apostolical succession.**

Another thing is very clear here.

The apostle did not believe in self-righteousness.

Creed of the world is, “Do your best, and it will be all right ...

**To question this is treason against the pride of human nature,
which evermore clings to salvation by its own merits.**

Every man is born a Pharisee. Self-confidence is bred in the bone....

**Why, you know, we must all live as well as we can,
every man according to his own light;**

**and if every man follows out his own conscience,
as near as may be, surely it will be well with us?”**

That is NOT what Peter said.



C. H. Spurgeon called Acts 15:11 the “Apostle’s Creed”

That is **NOT** what Peter said.

Peter did **NOT** say, “We believe that through doing our best, we shall be saved like other people.”

He did not even say, “We believe that if we act according to our light, God will accept that little light....”

NO! the apostle strikes out quite another track, and solemnly affirms,

Acts 15:11 “We believe that through the **GRACE** of our Lord Jesus Christ

“we shall be saved”

NOT through our good works, **NOT** through anything that we do,

NOT by the merit of anything which we feel or perform,

or promise to perform, but by **GRACE** ... by the free favor of God.

“Perish each thought of human pride—Let God alone be magnified.”



Alternate Title #3

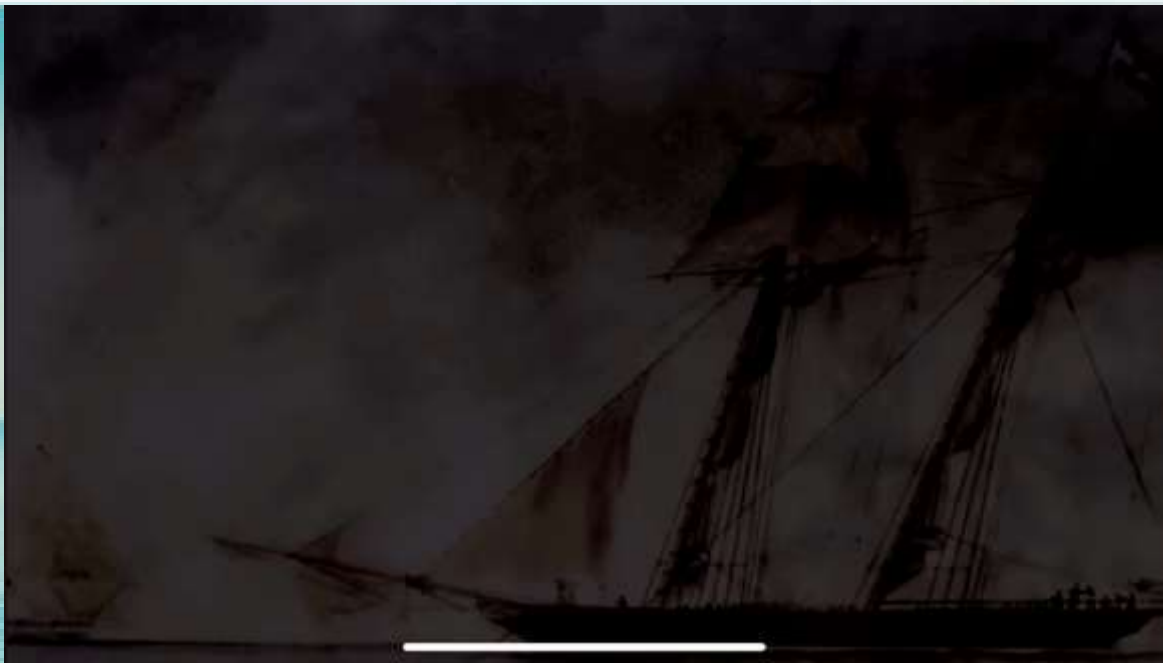
Sola Gratia by Faith Alone

**ONE of the
Mottos of The Reformation**
Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone
Sola Fide - Faith Alone
Solus Christus - Christ Alone

That ... is GOOOOD News to the

Uncircumcised Men





Reformation Mottos

Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone

Sola Fide - Faith Alone

Sola Gratia - Grace Alone

Solus Christus - Christ Alone

**Amazing GRACE! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I SEE.**

Amazing Grace by John Newton, 1779

**As in John 3, LOOK up to the Cross as the Israelites looked up to serpent on a pole
To be SAVED – no need for a ritual, formulae, operation, or baptism –
Simply Believe on Christ's Grace for Salvation**



Sola Gratia

Acts 15 Paul & Barnabas head to Jerusalem

BEFORE they leave Syrian Antioch & go UP to Jerusalem ...

... perhaps 400 miles ... yet, BEFORE they leave

Dispute comes 15:1

Certain people came
DOWN from Judea
to Antioch and were
teaching the believers:

“Unless you are circumcised, according to the
custom taught by Moses, you CANNOT BE SAVED.”



**Greece
Hellás**

Rome

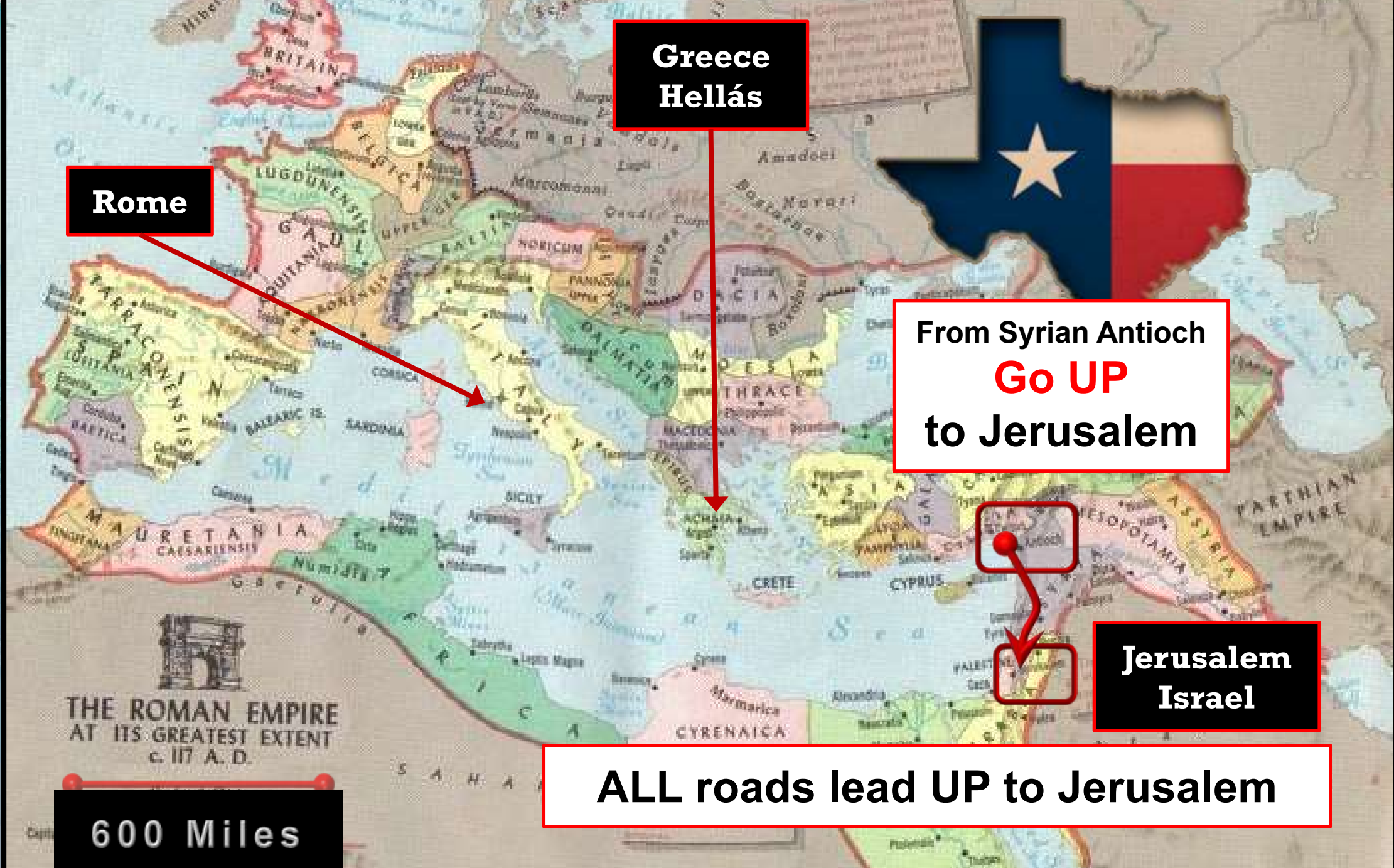
From Syrian Antioch
Go UP
to Jerusalem

**Jerusalem
Israel**

ALL roads lead UP to Jerusalem

THE ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT
c. 117 A.D.

600 Miles



Paul & Barnabas debate these folks

² This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some

OTHER believers, to go **UP TO** Jerusalem to see the apostles & elders about this.

³ The **CHURCH** sent them on their way ... traveled through Phoenicia & Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted.

THEN these marvelous words:

³ This news made all the believers very glad.

What NEWS?

Gentile Conversion!



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by Gregorio Fernández (1576-1636)
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ἐκκλησίας = *called out* = Assembly = Church

200+ variations, singular, plural, possessive, etc.

MEANS a gathering of citizens called out
from their homes into some public place

an assembly

You'll Come, Gather 'Round

NIV & KJV translate ἐκκλησίας “*assembly*” in

**19:32 The ASSEMBLY [Church?] was in
confusion: Some were shouting one thing,
some another. Most of the people did not
even know WHY they were there.**

“Assembly” is evolving into “Church” = believers



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ἐκκλησίας = *called out* = Assembly = Church

Paul & Barnabas met with “assemblies” of believers and ORGANIZED them ...

bit ... by bit

Believers of **“The WAY”** met with Paul

Holy Spirit is Leading **“The WAY”**

Antioch & Jerusalem ... and in the middle

Peter, Paul, James & Company

James, in Jerusalem, brother of Jesus

Officers of the Church – by default:

Apostles & Elders



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From Acts chapter 15
We have a CHURCH in Syrian Antioch ...

Where in Antioch believers 1st Called “Christians”

Acts 15 we have a deference to the
church LEADERSHIP in Jerusalem

When Paul & company arrive vv. 4-5
the Apostles & Elders welcome them

Elder = Greek *presbuteros* = 66x in N.T.
Yes, from which we get *Presbyterian*

Shaken up, boiled down ... and simply

Older Leadership



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In Acts 14:23 ... recall ...

Before Paul & Barnabas LEAVE Pisidia and
come back to Syrian Antioch

²³ Paul and Barnabas appointed **ELDERS**
for them in EACH CHURCH and,
with prayer and fasting,
committed them to the Lord,
in whom they had put their trust.

Later ... the “**elders**” ... EVOLVE

By Paul’s 1 Timothy & Titus 1 = we see “**Overseer**”

See the term “**Pastor**” for shepherd



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Peter encourages in 1 Peter 5:1 ... clearly

**¹ So I exhort the ELDERS among you,
as a fellow elder and a witness
of the sufferings of Christ,**

Peter, the Apostle is *ALSO* an Elder

But as Acts unfolds ... the “Church”

Still evolving ... Led by the Holy Spirit

I think its important that we do NOT have a LIST

No LIST of Elders that help Apostles

by A.D. 2024 ... we’ve come a long way

in “The Way”



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v. 15:5 — “Pharisee Party” is starting fights

Believers of the “Pharisee Party” contend

**Gentiles MUST be circumcised
AND**

they must keep the Law of Moses

Then a GREAT landmark verse 14:6

**⁶The apostles and elders MET
to consider this question.**

The FIRST Church Council ...

Seemingly unintended ... responsive

Crisis Management 101 ... sets a precedent



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Great Church Councils in March of History

Jerusalem Council c. A.D. 49-50

Fall of Jerusalem A.D. 70

Constantine's Edict of Milan A.D. 313

Nicaea I (325)

Constantinople I (381)

Ephesus (431)

Chalcedon (451)

Dark or Middle Ages A.D. 476-1300s

– Fall of Rome in 476 to Renaissance

Constantinople II (553)

Constantinople III (680–681)

Nicaea II (787)

Constantinople IV (869–870)

Lateran I (1123) ~ Lateran II (1139)

Lateran III (1179) ~ Lateran IV (1215)

Lyon I (1245) ~ Lyon II (1274)

Renaissance – 1300s - 1520

Vienne (1311–12)

Constance (1414–18)

Basel–Ferrara–Florence (1431–42)

Lateran V (1512–17)

Protestant Reformation, 1517 ...

Trent (1545–63)

Enlightenment 1600-1800

American & French Revolutions 1776 –

U.S. Civil War 1861-1865

Vatican I (1869–70)

WWI 1914-1918 & WWII 1939-1945

Vatican II (1962–65)

15:6-11 No Distinction – Peter—Saved by Grace

⁷ After much discussion, Peter got up ...
Gentiles hear ... gospel and believe ...

⁸ giving the Holy Spirit to them ...

⁹ He [*Spirit*] did not discriminate ...

Pivotal Point in The FIRST Church Council

¹⁰ why ... test God by putting on the necks
of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor
our ancestors have been able to bear?

ADMITTING Jews since EXILE still have TROUBLE

¹¹ No! ... through the grace of our Lord Jesus
that we are saved, just as they are.”



First Church Council



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Did you HEAR that?

¹⁰ **WHY** ... test God by putting on
the necks of Gentiles a yoke that
neither **WE** nor **OUR** ancestors
have been **ABLE** to bear?

Hear Ye ... Council did **NOT** say that

- ✠ Circumcision was Wrong
- ✠ Following Moses was Wrong
- ✠ Prevent an Adult Male Believer from
being Circumcised *if he WANTED*

✠ What was **WRONG** was the **REQUIRING**

✠ circumcising of **BELIEVERS** – **TO BE SAVED**



Peter Keys to Heaven, c. 1611
Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)

Yet, so oddly, on Paul's 2nd Journey
Acts 16, Paul returns to Lystra & Derbe, **DOES WHAT?**

Circumcises Timothy!

Timothy's Mother a Jew, Father a Greek?

Why? – Paul circumcised to aid in converting Jews
Even after the 1st Church Council, did not HAVE to
But circumcision allied Timothy to Paul

Yet, as oddly, in Galatians 2:3, Paul says

Yet not even Titus, who was with me,
was compelled to be circumcised,
even though he was a Greek.

Wow—Greek Christians PRESSURED to be CUT



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No ... No ... No ...

What the Council DID SAY ... was that

- ✠ **Mosaic Law WAS a Burden**
- ✠ **Ancestors Had Trouble Keeping Law**
- ✠ **They in 1st Century Had Trouble Keeping**
- ✠ **Therefore, WHY Make the Gentiles**

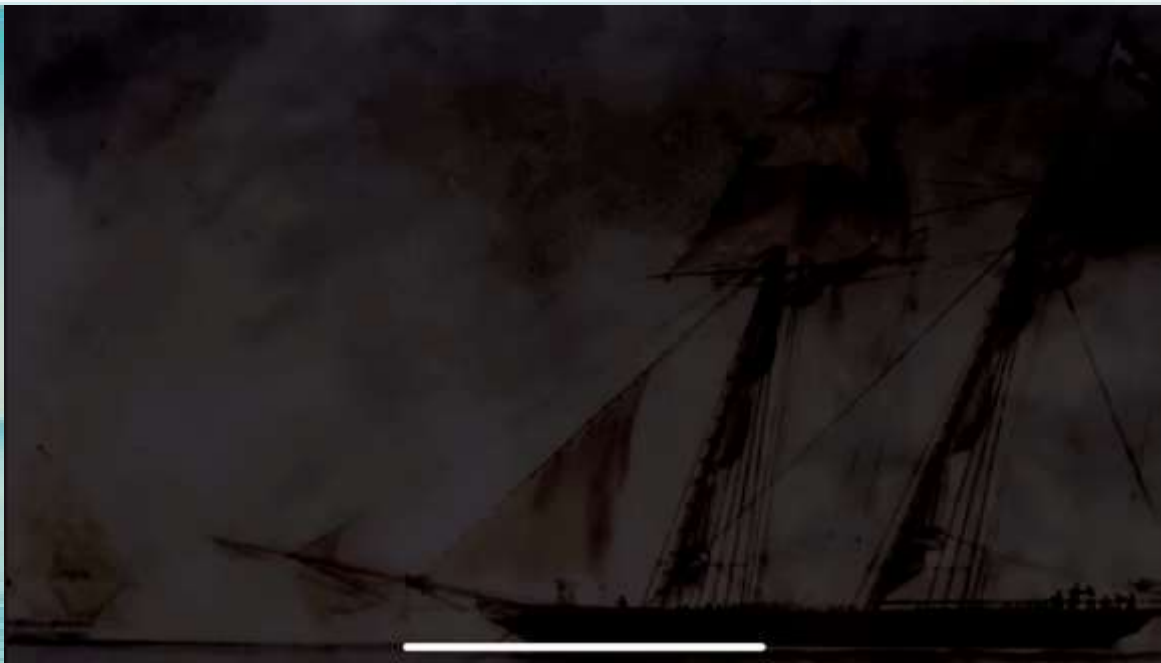
**¹¹ No! ... through the GRACE of
our Lord Jesus that we are saved,
just as they are.”**

Yet LAW was NOT simply the burden—fact is

ONLY Saved by Grace



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Amazing Grace by John Newton, 1779

Reformation Mottos

Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone

Sola Fide - Faith Alone

Sola Gratia - Grace Alone

Solus Christus - Christ Alone

How precious did
that GRACE appear
The HOUR I first believed!

Sola Gratia



15:6-11 No Distinction – Peter—Saved by Grace

- ⁷ After much discussion, Peter got up ...
Gentiles hear ... gospel and believe ...
⁸ giving the Holy Spirit to them ...
⁹ He did not discriminate ...

Pivotal Point in Council

- ¹⁰ why ... test God by putting on the necks
of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor
our ancestors have been able to bear?
¹¹ No! We believe through the
GRACE of our Lord Jesus that
we are saved, just as they are.”

The Apostle's 1st Creed



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Lyon I (1245) ~ Lyon II (1274)

Renaissance – 1300s - 1520

Vienne (1311–12)

Constance (1414–18)

- ❖ Emperor Constantine called Nicaea Council to settle the divinity of Christ – 300 Bishops
- ❖ Bishop Arius fought & lost, believing only the Father eternal
- ❖ Council drafted a CREED, a summary of very basic beliefs
- ❖ Byzantium new capitol of empire which Constantine renamed in A.D. 330 to Constantinople – Today's Istanbul
- ❖ A.D. 330 Christian Empire



Nicene Creed

First Council of Nicaea, A.D. 325

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God,] Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; By whom all things were made [both in heaven and on earth]; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man; He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. And in the Holy Ghost.

First Council of Constantinople, A.D. 381

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds (æons), Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; from thence he shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. In one holy catholic and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Apostle's Creed – evolved from Nicaea 325 & Constantinople 381

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

[Apostles' Creed - Wikipedia](#)

Originally in Latin, you'll see
this English version on many
Roman Catholic sites as the
essence of the Faith ...
Episcopal & Protestants too

15:12-22 Paul & Barnabas Testify about First Journey

Oh my oh my ... so much missing

¹² Whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

WHOLE First Missionary Journey

¹³ When they finished, James spoke up.
“Brothers,” he said, “listen to me.

James starts WITH Peter’s speech ...

What happened with Paul & Barnabas

May have been assumed ... oh well



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15:12-22 Paul & Barnabas Testify about First Journey

James ... the brother of Jesus, starts with a verse that doesn't call attention to itself

14 Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.

Scofield Bible, in a note on v. 14, said:

“Dispensationally ... the most important passage in the N.T.”

Gentile converts ... INCLUDED in promise to rebuild David's throne ...



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15:12-22 Paul & Barnabas Testify about First Journey

Therefore ... after a very clipped
version of James' message ...

¹⁹ “It is my judgment ...

²⁰ Instead we should write to them ...

²² Then the apostles and elders, with the
whole church, decided to choose some
of their own men and send them to
Antioch WITH Paul and Barnabas.

They chose Judas (called Barsabbas)
and Silas, men who were
leaders among the believers.



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15:23-29 Great Jerusalem LETTER

COUNCIL sends LETTER

23 With them they sent the following letter:
The apostles and elders, your brothers,
To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria
and Cilicia: Greetings.

**24 We have heard ... [of bad knuckleheads]...
troubling your minds by what they said.**

25 ... with dear friends Barnabas & Paul—

26 men who have risked their lives ...

27 sending Judas & Silas to confirm ...



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15:23-29 Great Jerusalem LETTER

Preface on Circumcision Salvation:

28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to *BURDEN* you with anything beyond the following requirements:

The Message:

29 You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.

You will do well to avoid these things.

FAREWELL.

What a relief ...

CAN be Saved WITHOUT Circumcision



15:23-29 Great Jerusalem LETTER

Paul ATTACKS Peter for being “afraid” of
the *Circumcised Believers* in Galatians 2

- ✓ Some believe Paul is referring to Acts 11
- ✓ Others believe Paul is referring to Acts 15

Whatever, Paul DRILLS his point in Galatians 2:16

Not by Works of the Law

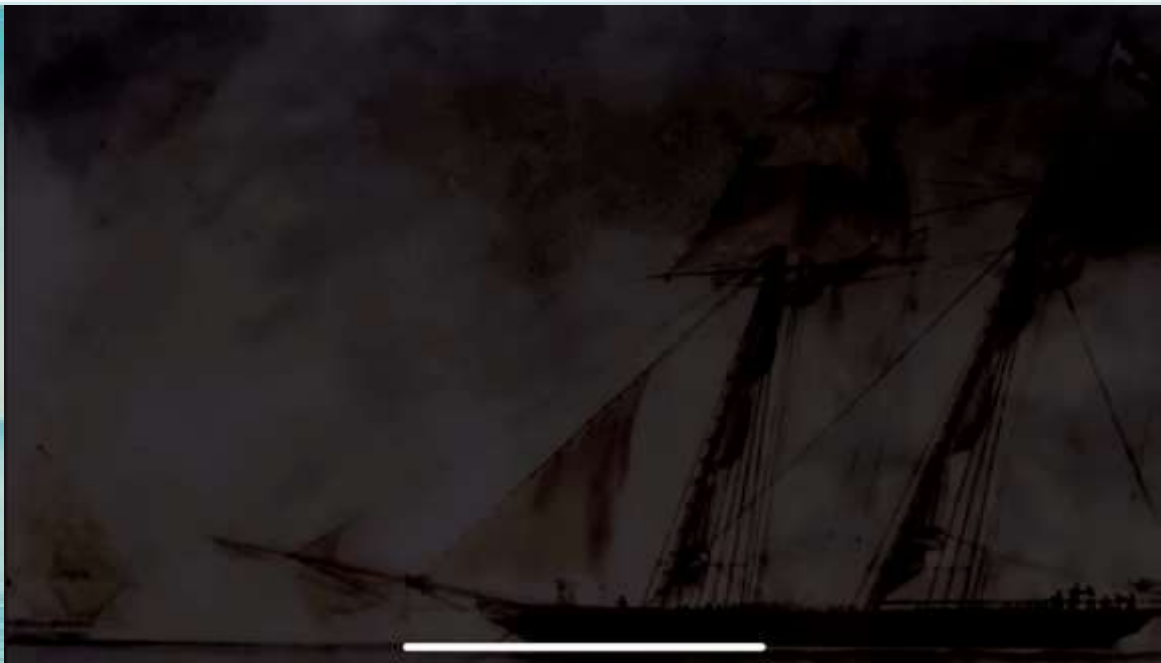
Paul refines more Romans 2:17-29

Rom 2:29 **No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly;
& circumcision is circumcision of the heart,
by the Spirit, not by the written code.**

Being SAVED is by Grace & Faith ALONE



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Amazing Grace by John Newton, 1779

Reformation Mottos

Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone

Sola Fide - Faith Alone

Sola Gratia - Grace Alone

Solus Christus - Christ Alone

Through many dangers,
toils and snares

I have already come:

'tis GRACE has brought me safe thus far,
and GRACE will lead us home.

Sola Gratia



Many male BELIEVERS wondered & feared

Must I be Circumcised?

Core of the Acts 15 Council's Great Letter
is Very Simply ... on circumcision

- ✠ **For believers in Christ—NOT required**
- ✠ **For Jews, it WAS required, Yet Not to be Saved**
- ✠ **Circumcision is NOT required NOW**
- ✠ **Avoid Pagan Meat & Strangled Animals**
- ✠ **Avoid Sexual Immorality**

a Great Relief to MANY male believers

CAN be SAVED without Circumcision



15:30-35 Head Back to Antioch

Off they go ... Great Paul & company ...

³⁰ So the men ... went **DOWN** to Antioch,
where they gathered the **CHURCH-*ASSEMBLY***
together and delivered the letter.

³¹ People read it and were glad for
its encouraging message.

³²⁻³³ Judas & Silas, who themselves were
prophets, said much to encourage and
strengthen the believers....

Judas & Silas Go back to Jerusalem



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15:30-35 Head Back to Antioch

³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas **REMAINED** in Antioch, where they and many others taught & preached the word of the Lord.

Now that is the NARRATIVE ...

But the GRAVITY of the situation THEN
I am sure escapes most of us ...

Let me offer you a recap ... a closer look at Acts 11 informs us on Acts 15... this problem has been simmering for two decades

Recall that Peter *struggled* in Acts 11



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Acts 11, Apostles & Believers heard about
Gentiles HEARING gospel

11:2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the
circumcised believers **CRITICIZED** him

11:3 and said, “You went into the house of
UNCIRCUMCISED men & ate with them.”

What? ... how did they KNOW?

Are there “Circumcision Inspectors”?

Peter retells his Joppa 3-fold rooftop vision

Yet ... sometime after this Paul confronted

Peter “to his face” in Galatians 2

Galatians—written
BEFORE or **AFTER**
Acts 15



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Paul tells us clearly ... Peter was no ROCK

Galatians 2:12

**For before certain men came from James,
he used to eat with the Gentiles.**

**But when they arrived, he began
to draw back and separate himself
from the Gentiles**

**because he was afraid of those who
belonged to the circumcision group.**

Peter ... the ROCK ... hah!

More like a Mud Pie



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Circumcision PROBLEM REAL

15:1 – folks from Judea in Antioch say:

“Unless you are circumcised ...
you **CANNOT** be **SAVED**.”

YIKES – Paul & Barnabas **MUST ARGUE** . . .

. . . and they **MUST** go to Jerusalem for help

While reporting in Jerusalem, look see:

15:5 **BELIEVERS** who belonged to the
party of the Pharisees stood up and said,

“The Gentiles **MUST** be circumcised &
required to **KEEP** the law of Moses.”



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We MUST understand something ...

What about the women? ... NOT considered

But there's another problem ... a **BURDEN**

These "Jewish believers" want

ALL non-Jew male believers to be circumcised

You know what that involves ... **Circumcision KITS**

Buy them TODAY @ Alibaba.com & Walmart.com



Wholesale 3 in
1 circumcisio...

\$7.00

Alibaba.com



CIRCUMSURE
Circumcision...

\$135.87

eBay

Free shipping



Disposable
Circumcision...

\$149.00

eBay

Free shipping



Disposable
Foreskin...

\$53.85

Walmart

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PSI Safe and
Precise...

\$63.60

NavaFresh - ...

**Free
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Ly Disposable
Foreskin...

\$56.99

eBay

Free shipping



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We understand NOW = Missionaries
ALL Gentile Adult MALE Believers ...
MUST be circumcised to be ... to be ...

SAVED

Now they are persuaded ... and they are on

MISSION

They go to Antioch ... argue with Paul

In Jerusalem ... they **STAND UP** ...

They **HOLD** up their

Circumcision Kits



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Hold up the Cutting Kits HIGH in the Air

To Be **SAVED**

Got to be **CUT**

to Get into the Kingdom



Obeying Law of Moses ... is Now **FORCED**

Paul & Co. **REFORMING** Judaism

Oct. 31, 1517 ... 507 years ago ...

Monk Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to
All Saints' Church, Wittenberg, Germany

He sought to Reform the Catholic Church

within 100 years, *Protesting Churches – Protestants*



SPLIT from Roman Catholicism

Protestant Reformation clarified

- ✠ **Sola Scriptura** = by Scripture Alone
- ✠ **Sola Fide** = by Faith Alone
- ✠ **Sola Gratia** = by GRACE Alone
- ✠ **Sola Christus** = By Christ Alone

You could say that Paul **LED** ...

You could say James & Apostles **LED** ...

FIRST Protestant Reformation in Judaism

Paul ... Jewish Scholar ... to the Gentiles

Peter ... Jewish Fisherman ... to the Jews

God Leading by His Spirit



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That is ... LONG before 1517 Reformation **LED**
Protestants to break from Catholicism

Jerusalem Council **LED** to the
Breaking with Judaism

“The WAY” was becoming the “Church”

“Assembly” of Jewish & Gentile BELIEVERS
something entirely NEW

a New Covenant

Established not on works ... but on Grace

God Leading by His Spirit

The CHURCH Triumphant



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Holding up their Circumcision Kits

Ah ... **CUT** N.T. Believers wanted **compliance**

Got to be CUT

to Get into the Kingdom

So ... these ah ... dare I say ... *these*

Kingdom Cutters

They're on a Mission similar to Paul's Mission

You have met "Believers" just like this

Quoting Scripture ... You **MUST** ...

MUST be just like them ... or you are **LOST**



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These Kingdom Cutters ...

Did NOT have the Holy Spirit

No Understanding of **GRACE**

“**The Way**” & the Apostles & Elders were
FORCED to Deal with the Cutters

The Great Jerusalem Letter THEREFORE:

- ✝ **FORCED** the Split from Judaism
- ✝ **FORCED** the Fulfillment of the Law
- ✝ **FORCED** the Salvation by GRACE
- ✝ **FORCED** the *FURTHER* the



Establishment of the Church



Led by the Holy Spirit

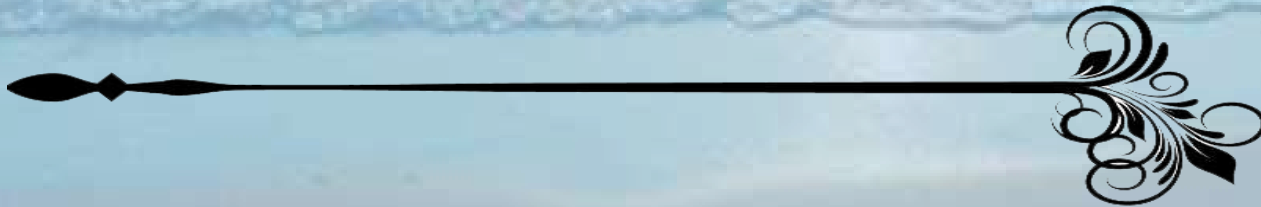
Great Jerusalem Letter DECLARED:

ALL Believers are FREE

Jew & Gentile – No Distinction

ALL Are Saved

By Grace



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Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887

- ✓ Son of evangelist Lyman Beecher
- ✓ Brother to Harriet Beecher Stowe, who achieved worldwide fame with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852)
- ✓ 1839, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis – growing to largest in the city
- ✓ 1847, Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York – invited Abe Lincoln to his church
- ✓ Became one of the greatest national speakers, touring the U.S.
- ✓ Beecher opposed slavery ...
- ✓ After Civil War, Beecher supported women's right to vote

Anonymous member of his congregation compiled

Life Thoughts, Gathered from the Extemporaneous Discourses of Henry Ward Beecher (Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co, 1858), 216-217.



Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887, *Life Thoughts* (1858), 216-217.

THREE natural philosophers go out into the forest and find a Nightingale's nest & forthwith

they begin to discuss the habits of the bird, its size, color ... eggs ... one pulls out of his pocket a treatise ...

another of Audubon ... dispute till at length ... quarrel ... get **RED** in the face & woods ring with their **CONFLICT** ..

When, lo, out of the green shade of a neighboring thicket the bird itself, **The Nightingale**, rested ... begins to sing.

At first its song is soft and low ... rises & swells ...

waves of melody float up over the trees & fill the air with tremulous music and all the forest doth **HUSH**

the entranced philosophers subdued and ashamed of their quarrel shut their books and walk home without a word



Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887, *Life Thoughts* (1858), 216-217.

**So men who around the empty sepulcher of Christ
have wrangled about the forms of religion
about creeds & doctrines & ordinances
when Christ himself disturbed by their discords
SINGS to them out of heaven of love & peace & joy
in the Holy Ghost are
They are ashamed of their conflicts & go quietly &
meekly to their duties.**

**Doctrine has its place in cementing our beliefs,
anchoring them to good reasoned Scripture against heresy
ALL point to the Work of the Grace of Christ in US – the**

Church Triumphant



Acts 15:11 – Apostles & Elders concur
at the First & Greatest Church Council

**No! We believe it is
through the GRACE of our
Lord Jesus that we are SAVED**

1st Apostle's Creed





Amazing Grace

When we've been there
TEN THOUSAND YEARS,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've **NO LESS** days
to sing God's praise
Than when we first began.

Amazing Grace by John Newton, 1779

Sola Gratia

**No! We believe it is through the GRACE of our
Lord Jesus that we are SAVED**



Acts 15:11