

# *MESSAGE NOTES*

## CHOOSE (Part 5)

### Keep it Simple

June 20 & 21, 2009

"The truth is we're all a mess ... none of us is who we appear to be ... we all have secrets ... we all have issues ... Romans 3: 10 says that no one is perfect ... we're all messy."

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the Christians: "Unless you keep the ancient Jewish custom of circumcision taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

Acts 15: 1 (NLT)

Paul and Barnabas, disagreeing with them, argued forcefully and at length. Finally, Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15: 1-2 (NLT)

When they arrived in Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported on what God had been doing through their ministry. But then some of the men who had been Pharisees before their conversion stood up and declared that all Gentile converts must be circumcised and be required to follow the law of Moses.

Acts 15: 4-5 (NLT)

Christ + something = Christianity

So the apostles and church elders got together to decide this question. At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: "Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe. God, who knows people's hearts, confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he gave him to us. He made no distinction

between us and them, for he also cleansed their hearts through faith. Why are you now questioning God's way by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear?

Acts 15: 6-10 (NLT)

Peter says, We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the special favor of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 15: 11 (NLT)

And so my judgment is that we should stop troubling the Gentiles and making it difficult when they turn to God.

Acts 15: 19 (NLT)

And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message.

Acts 15: 31 (NLT)

You'll remember, friends, that when I first came to you to let you in on God's master stroke, I didn't try to impress you with polished speeches and the latest philosophy. I deliberately kept it plain and simple ... just Jesus Christ and what He did on the Cross.

1 Corinthians 2: 1-2 (The Message)

Scripture Translation Guide  
(NIV) New International Version  
(NLT) New Living Translation  
(NCV) New Century Version  
(TEV) Today's English Version  
(CEV) Contemporary English Version  
(GW) God's Word  
(AMP) Amplified Version  
(JBP) JB Philips  
(LB) Living Bible  
(MSG) The Message