



THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

THIS WEEK AT THF

► TUESDAY

THF COLLEGE - Worship & Small Groups
7:00pm-9:00pm ~ Call Doug @ (806) 790-8732 for details

► WEDNESDAY

THF STUDENTS - Worship & Small Groups
7:00pm-8:30pm ~ Doors open at 6:30pm

► THURSDAY

THF Men's Ministry - Bible Study & Fellowship
6:30am-7:30am

UPCOMING AT THF

MARCH 15 & 22 - One Service at 9:30am

February 1, 2026

Please continue to check all
of our social media outlets
and our website for updates to
weekly activities and Sunday Services.

www.theheightsfellowship.org

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

January 25, 2026

BUDGET GIVING: \$7,111.00

BUDGET NEEDS: \$19,902.00

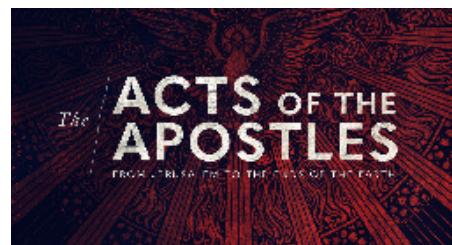
YEAR TO DATE

BUDGET GIVING: \$61,285.52

BUDGET NEEDS: \$68,236.00

JESUS + NOTHING

"We are talking about the difference between a religion of works and a work of grace."



At the end of the first mission, Paul and Barnabas were testifying and rejoicing **WITH THE CHURCH** in Antioch - **TRIUMPHANT AND EXCITED REPORT!!**

²⁷And when they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸And they spent a long time with the disciples. Acts 14:27-28

THE DISSENSION vv1-5

¹And 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."

²And when Paul and Barnabas had 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.

the 'door of faith' testimony created a great '**dissension**' and '**debate**' the 'dissension' was a **SERIOUS THREAT** for two reasons:

- It created a false **GOSPEL**
- It created a **false distinction** in the faith

'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.'

The problem: **ADDING** to the gospel **PREREQUISITE**

How a person is saved is most important question because
IF YOU DON'T GET THE GOSPEL RIGHT YOU CAN NEVER BE SAVED - YOU CAN NEVER BE FORGIVEN - YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

"But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are." Acts 15:11

So great was the disturbance in Antioch that they APPEALED to the church in Jerusalem

- Paul and Barnabas shared all the way to Jerusalem ^{v5}
- Paul and Barnabas were welcomed by the church of Jerusalem ^{v4}
- The 'door of faith' sharing brought **DISPUTE** again ^{v5}

But certain ones 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." ^{v5}

These were **BELIEVERS** who had developed a **wrong theology** necessary' means something that for sure **HAD TO HAPPEN** circumcision and abiding by the **OT Law** was to be **COMMANDMENT**

Paul's words to another church -

But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. Galatians 1:8

The message is **JESUS PLUS NOTHING**

SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE IS THE DISTINCTIVE OF CHRISTIANITY VS EVERYTHING ELSE

THE DISCUSSION vv6-21

⁶And the apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. ⁷And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up... Acts 15:6-7

3 Defenses -

PETER vv 7-11 -

- ① God **CHOSE** to use Peter first to take the gospel the Gentiles ^{v7}
- ② God gave them the same **HOLY SPIRIT** He gave the Jews ^{v8}
- ③ God made **NO DISTINCTION** based on heritage or background... ^{v9}
- ④ He installed **NO OTHER REQUIREMENTS** ^{v10}
- ⑤ Salvation is by **GRACE ALONE** ^{v11}

V12 NOTE THE EFFECT OF PETER'S DEFENSE - THE PLACE WENT MUTE

PAUL and BARNABAS v12 -

The appeal to the signs and wonders was specifically so the **JEWS** would recognize and understand what God was doing!

For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom... 2 Corinthians 1:22

JAMES vv 13-19 -

And after they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, "Brethren, listen to me.

- **AFFIRMED** Peter's testimony and witness ^{v14}
- **CONNECTS** what happened with what the **SCRIPTURES** said would happen
- **CONFIRMS** the gospel of Grace **WITH NO ADDITIONS** ^{v19}
- Recommended a **BRIDGE** of **GRACE** for the fellowship ^{v20-21}

JAMES RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NOT ABOUT SALVATION BUT FELLOWSHIP

THE DECISION vv22-35

²²Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas — Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, ²³ and they sent this letter by them... vv22-23

WHICH MEANS THE DISSENTERS WERE IN AGREEMENT

- The decision of Jesus + Nothing was **UNANIMOUS** !
- **Barsabbas (Judas)** and **Silas** accompanied Paul and Barnabas back to serve as a delegation
- The decision was **DOCUMENTED**
- **UNITY** was affirmed and grown by Judas and Silas' stay and ministry ^{v32}

THF LIFENotes

1-25-26

1. Dissension (Acts 15-1-5)

When the issues of circumcision and food laws arose, the disagreement became sharp enough to threaten the unity of the church. What made these issues so emotionally and spiritually charged for both sides, and what kinds of issues today tend to create similar dissension within the church.

2. Discussion (Acts 15:6-21)

The apostles and elders gathered to listen, debate, and discern together, giving space for testimony, Scripture, and the work of the Holy Spirit. What stands out to you about *how* the early church handled disagreement, and how might their approach shape the way we engage difficult conversations about doctrine or practice today?

3. Decision (Acts 15:22-29)

The final decision affirmed salvation by grace while asking Gentile believers to limit certain practices for the sake of unity and love. How does this decision balance truth and freedom with sensitivity and unity, and what does it teach us about when it may be right to limit our freedom for the good of the church?