



## Message

WEEK 4

#### WARM-UP

- Tell about a time you had a package delivered that was not in good condition. What did you do about it?
- Was there a time you were asked to pass a message to someone, but you had a hard time remembering it? What happened?
- How successful are you in keeping stains off your clothes?
   Has there been a stain you couldn't wash off?

### WORD

<sup>8</sup>"And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, <sup>9</sup>and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith . . . <sup>11</sup>But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

ACTS 15:8,9,11

In Acts 15, the disciples fought for the truth of the gospel. The message of the gospel was being tainted by *men from Judea* who were telling Gentiles (non-Jews) that they must be circumcised to be saved. But Paul reminded them that God *made no distinction* between Jews and Gentiles, and that all are saved through faith. He explained how the gospel applied to the Gentiles: in the same way as the Jews, they too receive the Holy Spirit, the cleansing of their hearts by faith, and salvation through the grace of Jesus. For all, to be saved is only by grace and through faith. It is not traditions, religious practices, or our works that maintain the truth of the gospel. In fact, good works are naturally birthed as we experience the truth and freedom of the message of Christ. Here are three things every person can experience from the true message of Christ.

1	The message of the gospel is offered to all people.
	"And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us" ACTS 15:8
	The message of the gospel is not exclusive to one race or ethnicity. God demonstrated His acceptance of the Gentiles when He gave the Holy Spirit to them even as He gave it to the Jewish believers. As a result, the church was marked with openness to all people groups. How does the acceptance of God for all people affect how you see others? How have you experienced or observed this in church community?
2	The message of the gospel cleanses our hearts.
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# 3 The message of the gospel is salvation by grace.

"But we believe that we	will be saved	through th	he grace	of the	Lord
Jesus, just as they will."	ACTS 15:11				

In Christ, all men are saved. Stripped of traditions and
religious practices, the plain and simple gospel is for the
salvation of all men. Because of this, we cannot look on
others with prejudice or judgment. We also cannot depend
on our own works for salvation. How did you experience the
true gospel of Christ? How does the Bible say that we are
saved? (Ephesians 2:8,9)

## **APPLICATION**

- Have you already given your life to Christ and felt His conviction, cleansing, and salvation? If not, would you like to do so today?
- The message of the gospel was being attacked from both outside and inside the church. As followers of God, we must hold to the true gospel through the Word of God.
- Do you know friends or family who have not yet experienced a life-changing encounter with God? How can you preach the gospel to them?

#### **PRAYER**

MOTEC

- Thank God for the true message of the gospel that convicts, cleanses, and saves. Thank Him that this gospel is for all men, without favoritism
- Ask God for the wisdom to fight for the truth of the gospel as Paul and the other disciples did. Pray that He will give you the words to say and the strength to resist lies and deception.
- Pray for a deeper understanding of the true message of God and a strong and vibrant relationship with Him. Pray for the true joy and peace that comes with knowing God. Pray that you will hear His voice clearer each day.

NOTES			



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