

Recap of 1/23/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 15:1-11

- 1. Some legalistic believers were teaching that to be saved a gentile must, in addition to faith in Christ, be circumcised and keep the Law.*
- 2. This was a time of transition for the church. At risk was the direct mission to the Gentiles and the doctrine of salvation by faith in Christ alone.*

*-**God's Word for the Biblically Inept** expresses it this way: "To some early Christian it seemed the Gospel had leaped out of its corral and was galloping across the world landscape like a herd of mustangs—beyond control, free, and wild. Wonderful things were happening among non-Jewish people. Whoa, Nellie! Strict Jews who believed in Jesus were happy when the first Gentiles found the Lord, but then they watched as changes took place that made them extremely uncomfortable.... This set up a showdown that led to another important turning point in early Christianity.... Gentiles would soon outnumber Jews in the church. No one in leadership seemed to be raising the all-important circumcision issue."*

- 3. The question that the church must resolve is this, must one make a commitment to Judaism in order to be saved. Must Gentiles be circumcised? Must they observe the Law of Moses? The answer is a resounding "No!" Acts chapter fifteen, referred to as the Jerusalem Council, debated and resolved that issue.*
- 4. Some contemporary additions to faith in Christ alone for salvation are: repent and believe, believe and be baptized, believe and surrender, believe and confess Christ.*