

Journey of Obedience: Acts

Paul and the Judaizers Acts 6, 9, 11-15

Road with a ditch on either side!



Strict adherence to law or prescription, especially to the letter rather than the spirit. The judging of conduct in terms of adherence to precise laws.

1. Who were the Pharisees?

- After the Temple was destroyed in 586 B.C., the synagogues came into existence as places of worship to keep the education and Jewish traditions alive outside of Jerusalem. During this time, there was NO SACRIFICING going on, so the Rabbis began to teach that God would look upon one's good deeds in place of being able to sacrifice. The teachings of the Rabbis developed into a whole _____ system called Rabbinic Judaism.
- When the Greeks tried to impose their godless way of thinking on the Jews, the very pious Jews stood up against them at peril to their own lives. Later, the _____ grew out of this pious group.
- They were the "lay people" who _____ attended synagogue every Sabbath and made a show of _____ all the traditions handed down by the more educated scribes.



Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. They tie up heavy _____ and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. Matthew 23:1-4

2. Saul was a **HIGHLY** _____ Pharisee. Acts 6/Galatians 1:14/Philippians 3:5

- He was from **Tarsus, the capital city of the province of Cilicia**. Tarsus was known for its wealth and for its great schools which are said to have rivalled Athens and Alexandria.
- He was trained by the **Rabbi Gamaliel** in Jerusalem, who was respected in the Jewish Supreme Court. He likely attended the **Synagogue of Freedmen** in Jerusalem, who opposed the apostles in Jerusalem. Acts 6:8-15
- He was motivated, zealous, and disciplined. He knew the Scriptures and the oral traditions of the rabbis. He had letters from the High Priest to find followers of Jesus and bring them to Jerusalem to be put in prison.
- Saul's _____ way of life was in _____ to God's way of salvation through Jesus, but he didn't know it. Acts 9:4-6



3. God SET Saul APART for His Own Purposes. Acts 9, 11, 13-14

- Confronted by Jesus as he was going to Damascus to arrest believers. Acts 9
- Given his job description: *“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name **before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel**; for I will show him how much he must **suffer for My name’s sake**.”* Acts 9:15-16
- Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch, where **both Jews and Greeks** have believed in Jesus. Acts 11:19-26
- The Holy Spirit tells the leaders of the church to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work to which they have been called. Acts 13:2-3
- They go into the synagogues wherever they travel. Some Jews believe but the leadership opposes their message of salvation in Jesus. The Gentiles gladly receive the message. *“We are turning to the Gentiles.”* Acts 13:44-49
- Acts 14:27 *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**.*

4. The Message of Salvation is Clarified: By GRACE through FAITH in JESUS. Acts 15

- PHARISEES who had believed said that GENTILES who had believed had to be circumcised (become Jewish first) AND keep the Law of Moses.
- PETER takes the lead at the debate and shares how God opened the door to the Gentiles through him. *“He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. Now therefore, why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus in the same way as they also are.”* Acts 15:9-11
- PAUL and Barnabas share what God has done through them among the Gentiles. Acts 15:12
- They conclude by the Holy Spirit’s guidance not to lay the great burden on the Gentile believers but give some essential instructions. Acts 15:28-29
- Paul writes **Galatians and Romans** in response to this issue.



The one who repents and comes to Jesus by _____, receives salvation and is made _____ before God.

SALVATION is a _____ of GOD for both the religious and the non-religious, because both are _____ before God who need _____. Religious observance cannot _____ anything to that righteousness and the lack of religious observance cannot _____.

Key Verse to memorize:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.