**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. September 10, 2017**

**How Does God Save?**

ACTS 15:1-35

**Key Truth:** The doctrine of salvation is something that followers of Jesus Christ must understand and embrace.

1. The Disagreement centered on how God saves Gentiles:

 A. The disagreement had more to do with protecting their

 Jewish identity and power.

 B. False teaching must always be challenged and condemned.

 Galatians 1:6-9, Galatians 2:14

2. The Discussion included prominent leaders in the Jewish and

 Gentile churches.

 A. God has established leadership in the church to oversee,

 direct, and protect His people from false teachers.

 Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Timothy 1:1-6, 1Peter 5:1-5,

 B. Doctrine is important because it shapes what we think

 about God and how we live and disciple others.

3. The Decision had far reaching implications on evangelism

 and discipleship.

 A The decision was rooted in Scripture, the Holy Spirit and

 practical experience by church leadership.

 B. The doctrine of Salvation by grace and faith alone in Jesus

 Christ is affirmed by the church.

4. TheDevelopment that came to the church:

 A. Unity of purpose in regards to salvation.

 B. Encouragement that Gentiles are fully accepted by God and

 are included in the family of faith.

**Taking It Beyond the Walls:** Recognize that you are loved by God and accepted by Him. Stop working for God’s approval and just accept His gift of Grace through Jesus Christ.

**Food For Thought**

For the Week of September 10, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

What is your gut reaction when conflicts arise? Do you run away, fight back or ignore?

What are the most common issues that cause conflict in today’s churches?

Read ACTS 15:1-5: What things did the teachers in this passage say the Gentiles must do? If you were a Gentile hearing that these regulations were required, how would you feel about your new faith? As a strict Jew, why would these rules be important to you?

What were some of the expected, extra-biblical rules you were supposed to follow in the church where you grew up?

Why should we expect conflict within the church? In what ways can conflict be productive? Why is conflict resolution important in a church?

What was in jeopardy if the church couldn’t reach an agreement about these issues? How would things be different for Christians today if the people in Acts 15:5 had been successful?

What roles do experience, theology, and practical considerations play in the decision-making process of this council? Why are all three important?