

GRACE WINS! GRACE WINS!

JERUSALEM COUNCIL, PART IV, ACTS 15:19-35

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: By making no comment, the council agreed that salvation and our personal relationship with Christ is only by faith. (Acts 15:11) Therefore, the Pharisees lost the case.

PERFORMANCE STANDARD LOSES. The Pharisees were trying to reach God by their own standards and performance. This course of self-effort and self-improvement is called law and is contradictory to faith. (Acts 15:19, 10, 11, fn 15:10, Romans 6:14, 15, fn 6:14, 15, Galatians 3:1-4, fn 3:5[1st], Romans 13:8-10, fn 13:10) *How could you teach your family to live by grace?*

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTROLS. The key to the Christian life is living under the power (grace) of the Holy Spirit. This is only possible when we by faith fix our eyes on Jesus and let Him live His life through us. (Acts 15:28, 8, 9, Hebrews 12:2, fn 12:1-4, Romans 7:4-6, fn 7:6, Galatians 5:16, fn 5:16-18, Ephesians 5:18, fn 5:18) *How are you controlled (filled) with the Holy Spirit?*

FELLOWSHIP IS EMPHASIZED. James and the apostles wanted fellowship between the Jews and the Gentiles. The Gentile Christians could make their faith attractive by being sensitive to Jewish consciences, thus making table fellowship possible. (Acts 15:29, 20, 21, fn 15:20,21, Romans 14:13-23, fn 14:14, I Corinthians 8:1-13, fn 8:10-13) *Why is fellowship with other believers so important?*

Pray for one another's needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?