

# STUCK IN TORAH LAND

## JERUSALEM COUNCIL, PART I, ACTS 15:1-5

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

BACKGROUND: The first five books of the Old Testament are called the Torah. The Pharisees wanted to customize salvation to their taste.

**WITH NO GRACE**—Salvation by law and/or works appeals to our egos. God’s plan of salvation is by grace and depends entirely on Him. (Acts 15:1, fn 15:1ff, John 1:16, 17, Galatians 5:2-6, fn 5:2-4, fn 5:3, 4, Ephesians 1:7, 8, fn 1:7, 8, Ephesians 2:4-9, fn 2:8-10, Romans 3:20-24, fn 3:24) *How has your understanding of grace helped you to live in your “land”?*

**WITH NO FAITH**—The Pharisees overlooked Abraham, and they did not understand that salvation has always been by faith. “Faith is not in itself a meritorious act. The merit is in the One toward Whom it is directed. Faith is a redirecting of our sight, a getting out of the focus of our own vision and getting God into focus.” A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, p. 91. (Acts 15:2-4, fn 15:2, Galatians 3:1-14, fn 3:6-9, Hebrews 12:2, Romans 4:13-16, fn 4:16) *How could you encourage your family to increase their faith in Jesus Christ in their “land”?*

**WITH NO FREEDOM**—As those who are in relationship with Jesus Christ, we are free from keeping laws and religious customs in order to win God’s approval. Most of all we are set free from the guilt of sin. (Acts 15:5, Jeremiah 31:31-34, II Corinthians 3:14-18, fn 3:17, Romans 8:1-4, fn 8:1, John 8:31-36, fn 8:34, 35, Galatians 5:1, fn 5:1, Colossians 2:20-23, fn 2:20-23[2<sup>nd</sup>]) *How could you determine if you are stuck?*

*Pray for one another’s needs.*

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

