Acts 15-selected verses for 20 September 2020

**15**Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” **2**This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

**6**The apostles and elders met to consider this question. **7**After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. **8**God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. **9**He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. **10**Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? **11**No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

**12**The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. **13**When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. **14**Simon[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+15&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-27457a)] has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. **15**The words of the prophets are in agreement with this.

**19**“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. **20**Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. **21**For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”