

JESUS AT THE CORE

LOVING THEIR NEW LIFE

JOY FILLED COMMUNITIES

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER
2023

SUNDAYS
9am & 10:30am
9am LIVE

UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appealing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." The Ascension 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee,

MAP OF THE WORLD



BIG PICTURE THINKING

ACTS 15:1-22

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WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

The Early Church came together to wrestle with truth and unity to ensure the gospel superseded everything else... and the church hasn't stopped wrestling since.

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Acts 15:1-22a

¹ But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the

Acts 15:1-22a

apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.” ⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit

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Acts 15:1-22a

just as he did to us,⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me.¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first

Acts 15:1-22a

visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name.
¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, ¹⁶ “‘After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸ known from of old.’ ¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has

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Acts 15:1-22a

been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.” ²² Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

First, a little history:

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Council of Nicaea

325 AD



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Diet of Worms

1521 AD



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WORLD

Westminster Assembly

1643-1653 AD



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WHAT IS THE CHIEF
END OF MAN?

**TO GLORIFY GOD
& ENJOY HIM
FOREVER.**

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EFCA

®

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The Early Church leaned into their big view of God to seek truth and unity.

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- **Their big view of God pursued God's revealed truth:**

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- **Their big view of God pursued God's revealed truth:**
 - **The Apostles**

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- **Their big view of God pursued God's revealed truth:**
 - The Apostles
 - **The OT**

Acts 15:1-22a

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- Their big view of God pursued unity:
 - Passionate, but healthy debate
- **Their big view of God guided their conclusion:**

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 - The Apostles
 - The OT
- Their big view of God pursued unity:
 - Passionate, but healthy debate
- **Their big view of God guided their conclusion:**
 - **Nothing higher than sharing the true gospel through a healthy Church**

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The Early Church leaned into their big view of God to seek truth and unity.

We can continue to lean into a big view of God to seek truth and unity for the health of the Church.

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RELIGION

Southern Baptists say no to women
pastors, uphold expulsion of Saddleback
megachurch

Presbyterian Church in America
Leaves National Association of
Evangelicals

United Methodists Lose 1,800
Churches in Split Over LGBT
Stance

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**Response to the
imperfections/
failures of the
church**

The Church

**Outside culture's
influence on
the church**

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What does it mean to have a big view of a big God, today?

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What does it look like to have a big view of a big God, today?

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- **We understand our emotions are an assessment of how much we trust God.**

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- **We have a graciousness for those who disagree with us.**

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- **We lean into the truth of God, revealed through His Word, and embrace it even when it might mean we're wrong.**

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- We see everything as connected to Him.
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- We understand our emotions are an assessment of how much we trust God.
- We have a graciousness for those who disagree with us.
- We lean into the truth of God, revealed through His Word, and embrace it even when it might mean we're wrong.
- **We get excited about growing a big view of a big God.**

A hope for RCC:

That each of us would lean into a big view of a big God and see that there is nothing higher than sharing the true gospel as a healthy, unstoppable Church.

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COMMUNION

