

**Message Title: “TESTING GOD – HOW WE
TREAT NEW BELIEVERS**

**Series: ACTS 180 – When the World
Was Turned Upside Down!
180 Church | Acts 15:1-35
Pastor Harlyn | Sept 12, 2021**

Acts 15:1 “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.”

**Revival doesn’t happen when we fight for biblical values.
Revival happens when we present the biblical Jesus.**

Acts 15:2 “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.”

Acts 15:7-11 “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 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.”

Acts 15:12-18 “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 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.”

Acts 15:19-21 “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, from sexual immorality, and from what has 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.”

We shouldn’t make it hard for people to find & follow Jesus.

Acts 15:30-35 “So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. ³¹ And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. ³² And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. ³³ And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. ³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.”

LOOK IN:

1. What groups/people do you have a hard time accepting? How does this verse challenge or encourage you?
2. How have you dealt with disputes with other Christians? How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
3. Are you the kind of person whose emotions and passions reflect a life lived in moralist striving, or do you move freely through this world as a person covered by grace?
4. What are the barriers you put up that make it hard for folks to find and follow Jesus?
5. What are the ways you've decided things 'should be' that are firmly rooted in what might be a glorious past, but it's causing you to miss out on a fruitful future?

NOTES: