

We Shouldn't Make It Difficult

Acts 15.1-21

1. A Crucial Issue, vs 1-2,5

- ***ingathering of non-Jews***
 - Peter and Cornelius 10.1-11.18***
 - outreach from Antioch 11.19-26***
 - overseas mission 13.1-14.28***
- ***so much at stake***
 - the basis of salvation v1,5***
 - the potential for a split***
 - Jesus essential – but sufficient?***
- ***a sharp dispute***
 - don't be afraid of debate***
 - Prov 27.17***
 - vital for clarification Gal 2.11-16***

2. A Careful Procedure, vs 2b-7

- ***an official delegation***
 - consideration by church leaders***

3. A Convincing Presentation, vs7-11

- **God decided Gentiles should hear and believe v7; 11.8**
- **God showed acceptance of them by the gift of his Spirit v8; 10.46**
- **Faith in Jesus is the key to salvation v9; Rom 10.12-13 Acts 10.43; Gal 2.15-16; Gal 3.2,5,10-11,26; 5.1-16; 6.15**
- **Additional requirements are an affront to God v10**
- **Salvation by grace, not works v11 simple, certain, universal Eph 2.8-9**

4. Compelling Evidence, v12

- **missionary successes**

5. A Clear Resolution, vs13-18

- **a change of heart Gal 2.12**
God takes Gentiles directly Zech 2.11
- **don't create obstacles for those seeking salvation**