

Acts # 66 “Strengthening the Churches” Acts 15:30-41

**Gladness or joy is inner mental happiness which comes from orientation to grace.**

Grace believers always rejoice when they fully understand grace and are contemplating grace and their entire motivation in life is grace indicating that they have definitely succeeded.

*As encouraging as grace preaching is, it's not popular.*

Wherever legalism exists, people want to hear things that tell them they can do something to gain God's approval.

They want to hear one way or another of how great they really are.

**And they love hearing about systems of false-spirituality from the pulpit.**

**The responsibility of a pastor in a local church is to teach biblical truth.**

The word ‘taught’ in Acts 15:35 simply means to communicate the Word of God to a public assembly so that the people hearing can absorb and use it.

*The same word is the basis for the word disciple and disciples are simply people who have been taught biblical truth and are using it.*

What was communicated well in this case, was the principle of grace based upon the victory of the Jerusalem council.

If you know, you can do; you can produce divine good but if you're ignorant, then no matter how hard you try, you cannot do, effectively.

**Contradictions cannot exist in the plan of God for the Church Age.**

By abandoning or living outside of our spiritual life, we lose our spiritual values, which includes rejection of Bible teaching as our number one priority in life.

*This is always true in the life of a loser believer, whether temporarily or permanently.*

Ignorance of biblical truth contradicts the experiential plan of God for the Church.

Under the perfect plan of God, processed biblical truth acts as an exclusion factor and there are four exclusions that result from understanding, learning, believing and applying biblical truth:

1. Divine power excludes the use of human power in executing God's plan; 2. Grace excludes legalism; 3. Divine viewpoint excludes human viewpoint; 4. God's problem-solving devices exclude stress in the soul while solving all the problems of life.

**We still have a sin nature after salvation and as we learn biblical truth, we see more demonstrations of our sin nature.**

The sin nature is not the source of sin but is the source of temptation to sin.

*It is not sinful to be tempted but it is sinful to use our free-will to give in to temptation;*

*therefore, the source of all sin in our lives is our free-will.*

And whether we knew it was a sin or not, we wanted to do it; so we are accountable for every sin we commit.

We are accountable for every decision we make since we've reached God-consciousness.

***But the sin nature has no more control over our lives than we give it and God holds us responsible for every decision we make; so all sin is a decision of our own free-will.***

**Sin in the Christian life originates from our free-will and failure to execute the plan of God results from free-will plus arrogance, resulting in free-will plus ignorance and ignorance is never an excuse in the Christian way of life.**

Contradictions exist when Christians follow Satan's plan of worldly or cosmic involvement. *But contradictions are eliminated through post-salvation New Testament epistemological rehabilitation.*

We have to keep learning biblical truth until biblical principles are formed in our minds for thinking purposes.

Contradictions are eliminated through the execution of the plan of God by learning and applying biblical truth and solving our problems in spiritual adulthood.