



## Alan Gibbon – Who is in! (Don't lose your marbles) – Acts 15:1-12

Acts 11:18 – *When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."*

Jerusalem Church accepts Gentiles.

But further problem arises, should they be circumcised or not. The church was changing and it needs to be able to adapt.

These events are probably happening in around AD49. So people arrive and off their own back (v.24 tells us that they didn't have the authority of the Church in Jerusalem)

But – this cause a big controversy.

Problem settled on authority. – And the big difference between the church then and today was that this major controversy less that 20 years since the time of Jesus, wasn't swept under the carpet, but it was contested, people had a chance to air their views.

Earning Salvation - The issue of wanting to do something to earn salvation. Church today can still be adding to that list.

False Teaching - Teaching had a ring of authority, because these folks came from Jerusalem. I get really annoyed when Christian leaders stand up on TV and tell people what "The Church's" position is. Thing is Joe Public believes it.

The Gospel – Message is what? That Jesus died for us, and because of this sacrificial death, we are invited into the family of God, not earned but invited....These people coming up from Jerusalem...all very well....but, they are taking away the central plank of faith (Ker plunk).

The Council of Jerusalem was significant, because. It shows mature Christian debate in action, where unity can be agreed

It shows the Church to be a willing vessel of integration

*Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?*

Willing to adapt to cultural change without losing our marbles.