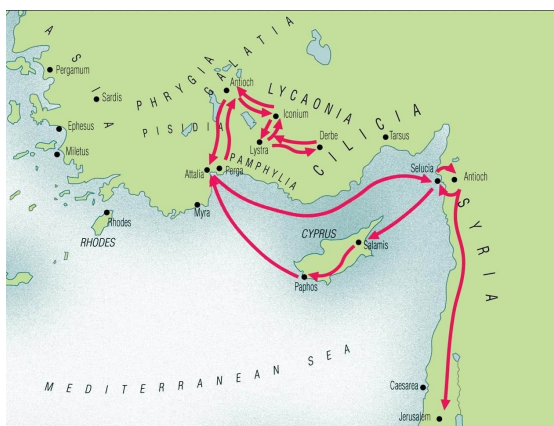


Sola Fide

Acts 15.1-35

Focus: on trusting solely in Christ's work on our behalf for salvation for all who believe.



Paul's First Missionary Journey

Discussion:

- Read verses 1-6. What is the debate about? Why is this so important? Where might this same debate come up today?
- Read verses 7-18. Summarize the argument that each man makes: Peter, then Barnabas and Paul, then James. What about their arguments is encouraging or challenging to you?
- Read verses 19-21. What is the potential problem with James giving these four requirements for Gentile believers? How can he do that and still defend the gospel by grace, free from our works?
- If you had a friend who came to Christ from a subculture that is not associated with Christianity (e.g. Goths or the like), in what way could you be tempted to require them to change their culture before they became a Christian? What would be the problem with that?
- Why is the defense of salvation by grace alone though faith alone such very good news? How might things have changed for us if the believing Pharisees had prevailed in their arguments to include circumcision as a requirement for salvation?
- How can we make sure we protect the gospel of grace when we talk with our friends about what it takes to become a Christian? Pray for one another, that we would protect the beauty of the gospel of grace and share it well.

2014-2015 Acts Focus

To advance our church in our knowledge and experience of the Spirit in such a way that we will increasingly embrace His ministry in and through us, especially in witness.