

THE BOOK OF
ACTS
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Acts 15: 1-35

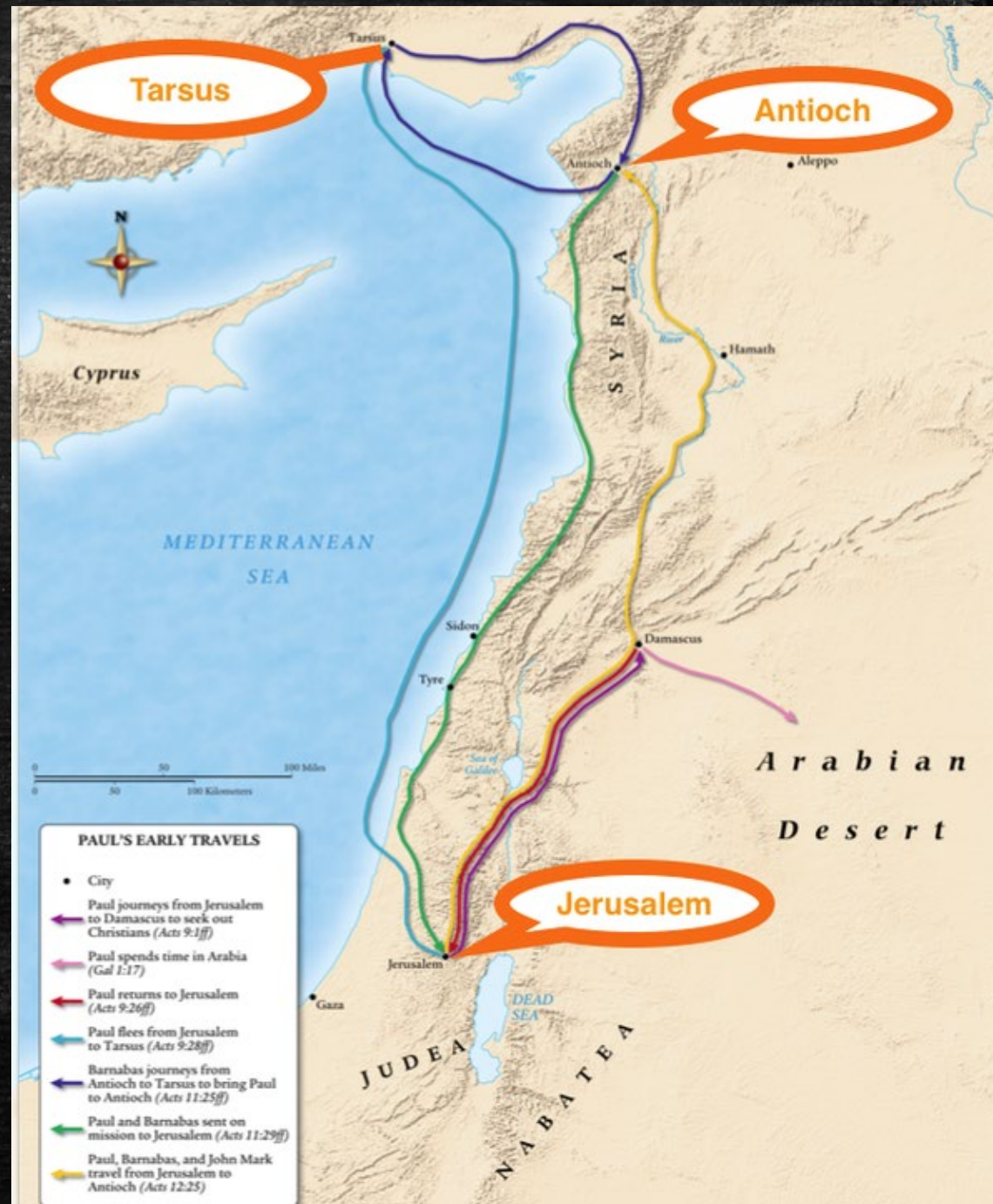
Message + Mission + Multiply

Acts 15: 1 NIV

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Antioch is about 300 miles north of Jerusalem.

If travelers averaged 20 miles a day it would take some fifteen days of actual walking. Donkeys would be the preferred "beast of burden."



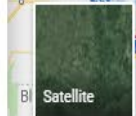
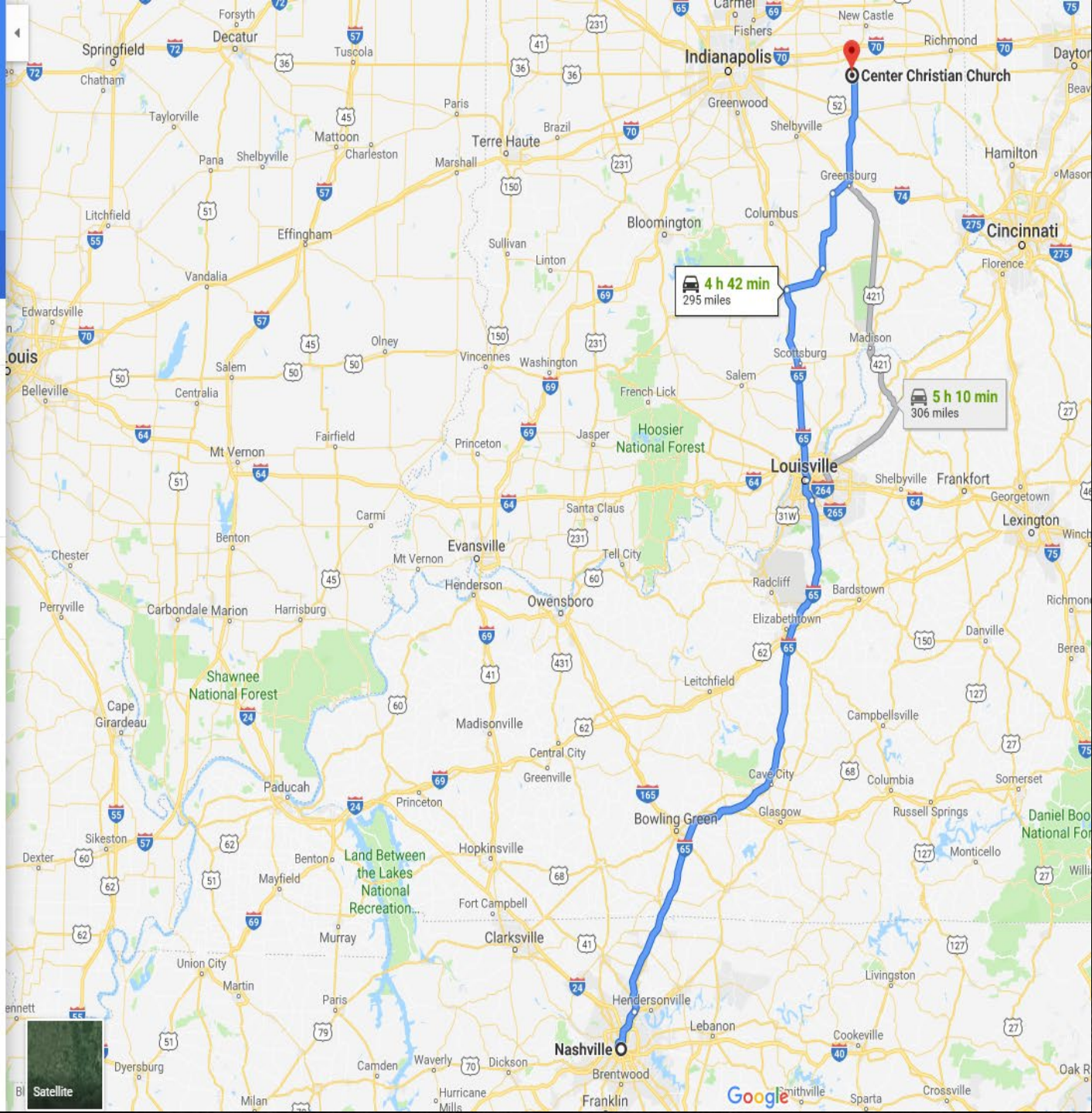
Nashville, Tennessee
 Center Christian Church, 9112 N 50 W, K
 Add destination

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Send directions to your phone

via I-65 N **4 h 42 min**
 Fastest route, the usual traffic 295 miles
 This route has tolls.
 Your destination is in a different time zone.
 DETAILS

via I-65 N and US-421 N **5 h 10 min**
306 miles





Question

What nationality
do you think these
certain people
belong to?

Question

Who do you think ultimately is behind this teaching?

Question

Do you think
Gentile males are
having difficulty
with this?

Acts 15: 2 NIV

This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

Question

Where do we seek
guidance from?

Question

How is
disagreement
viewed today?

Question

How is debate
viewed today?

Acts 15: 2 NIV

*This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. **So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers,** to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.*

Question

What character trait is exhibited by Paul here?

Acts 15: 3 NIV

The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad.

Question

What were they doing during their travel to Jerusalem?

Question

What can we learn
from this?

Acts 15: 4 NIV

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they

reported everything God had done through them.

Question

What were they reporting?

Acts 15: 5 NIV

Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

Question

What typically happens to our focus when we want to win an argument?

Confirmation Bias (F. Bacon 1620)

“Once a man’s understanding has settled on something (either because it is an accepted belief or because it pleases him), it draws everything else also to support and agree with it.

And if it encounters a larger number of more powerful countervailing examples, it either fails to notice them, or disregards them, or makes fine distinctions to dismiss and reject them, and all this with much dangerous prejudice, to preserve the authority of its first Conceptions.”

Acts 15: 4 NIV

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they

reported everything God had done through them.

Acts 15: 5 NIV

Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

Question

What were
Pharisees known
for?

Question

Can you see how
their false teaching
is expanding?

Acts 15: 1 NIV

*Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “**Unless you are circumcised**, according to the custom taught by Moses, **you cannot be saved.**”*

Acts 15: 5 NIV

Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

Acts 15: 6 NIV

*The apostles and elders
met to consider this
question.*

Acts 15: 7 NIV

After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15: 8 NIV

God, who knows the heart, showed that **he** accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as **he** did to us.

Acts 15: 9 NIV

He did not discriminate between us and them, for **he** purified their hearts by faith.

Question

Where is Peter
finding the answer?

Question

Who is Peter taking
out of the
discussion?

Acts 15: 10 NIV

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

Acts 15: 11 NIV

*No! We believe it is
through the grace of our
Lord Jesus that we are
saved, just as they are.”*

Question

How do you think
they are going to
prove this?

Acts 14: 3 NIV

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

Acts 15: 12 NIV

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

Acts 15: 13-14 NIV

When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.

Acts 15: 15 NIV

The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

Question

What else are they
using to support
their argument?

Acts 15: 16 NIV

*“After this I will return
and rebuild David’s
fallen tent.*

*Its ruins I will rebuild,
and I will restore it,*

Acts 15: 17-18 NIV

*that the rest of mankind
may seek the Lord,
**even all the Gentiles
who bear my name,**
says the Lord, who does
these things'—things
known from long ago.*

Acts 15: 19 NIV

*It is my judgment,
therefore, that we should
not make it difficult for
the Gentiles who are
turning to God.*

Question

Who is creating
these requirements
that is making it
difficult for the
Gentiles?

Acts 15: 20 NIV

Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

Please turn to:
Romans 14: 13-23

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died.

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble.

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

*It is better not to eat meat
or drink wine or to do
anything else that will
cause your brother or
sister to fall.*

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves.

Romans 14: 13-23 NIV

But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Acts 15: 20 NIV

*Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from **food polluted by idols**, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.*

food polluted by idols

Meat that had been butchered from animals used in animal sacrifices to pagan gods were often sold at a discount price at the back of the temple of the false god.

Acts 15: 20 NIV

Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

sexual immorality

porneias

πορνείας

sexual immorality

sexual immorality (fornication)

Any sexual activities that are outside of those between one man and one woman who have been joined for life in marriage. Some examples are adultery, homosexuality, pre-marital sex, prostitution

Acts 15: 20 NIV

Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

the meat of strangled animals

This is a reference to meat from animals that have not been killed properly.

Examples are animals that die of themselves, or have been killed by other animals, or are not killed in a proper way, by letting out their blood.

Deuteronomy 14: 21 NIV

*Do not eat anything you
find already dead...*

Acts 15: 20 NIV

Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

from blood

This is a reference to drinking the blood of animals which was common practice with pagan sacrifices and rituals.

Acts 15: 21 NIV

For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Acts 15: 22 NIV

Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers.

Acts 15: 23 NIV

With them they sent the following letter:

*The apostles and elders,
your brothers,*

*To the Gentile believers in
Antioch, Syria and Cilicia:*

Greetings.

Acts 15: 24 NIV

We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.

Question

What can happen
when people do
things on their own
without
authorization?

When everyone does what is right in their own eyes, without the support of the Church under the headship of Christ, the only thing that will result is chaos and confusion.

Acts 15: 25-26 NIV

So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 15: 27 NIV

Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.

Acts 15: 28 NIV

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

Acts 15: 29 NIV

You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.

Acts 15: 30-31 NIV

So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.

Acts 15: 32 NIV

Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.

Acts 15: 34 NIV

After spending some time there, they were sent off by the believers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them.

Acts 15: 35 NIV

But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

Next Week

Please Read

Acts 15:36-16:40