"A Perfect Gospel for Imperfect People – Part 1"

Acts 15:1-21 – *Pastor Josh Gerber*

Main point: Salvation is entirely by grace apart from our works or anyone else's requirements.

1. **Legalism tempts us to believe that God's approval requires "Jesus plus _____"** (vv1–5).

   Legalism is relying on anything besides Christ alone, including ourselves or our obedience, to make us right with God or to keep us in His favor.

2. **We can't carry the _____ of the law, so we need the grace of Jesus** (vv6–18).

3. **God has set the bar at grace, and He doesn't need us to _____ it** (vv19–21).

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you feel the most pressure to perform or look good: at work, at home, at school, or at church? How can that pressure shape the way you think God sees you?
2. What are some modern ways Christians believe that God's approval takes "Jesus plus me"?
3. Eve added "neither shall you touch it" to God's command (Gen 3:3). Where are you tempted to keep a "spiritual scorecard" or treat your own extra rules as if they came from God? How can that lead to pride or to despair?
4. If God's own people couldn't carry the yoke of the law, what does that say about anything we might add to Jesus?
5. Is there someone, such as a child, a spouse, a friend or a new believer, whose acceptance you make depend on their performance? How might you treat them as someone who has received God's grace instead of someone who must earn it?
6. How does grace free us to give things up for God and others without making them a price for salvation?

Going Deeper This Week:

- **Monday:** Galatians 2:15–21: Justified by faith in Christ, not by works of the law
- **Tuesday:** Romans 8:1–4: No condemnation
- **Wednesday:** Luke 15:11–24: Welcomed by grace
- **Thursday:** Matthew 11:28–30: The yoke of Christ
- **Friday:** Titus 2:11–14: Grace that trains