

Acts 15:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Analysis

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they—Peter's statement inverts the expected formula: rather than Gentiles being saved like Jews, Jews are saved like Gentiles—by grace alone, apart from law-keeping. **Through the grace** (διὰ τῆς χάριτος) emphasizes salvation's unmerited nature; 'Lord Jesus Christ' uses the full title denoting deity, messiahship, and sovereignty. **Even as they** (καθ' ὅν τρόπον κάκείνοι) refers to Cornelius and Gentile converts who received the Spirit without circumcision. This leveling statement—Jew and Gentile saved identically by grace through faith—settles the circumcision controversy.

Historical Context

Peter's decisive speech at the Jerusalem Council (circa 49 AD), convened to address Pharisaic Christians' demand that Gentile converts be circumcised (v.5). Peter recalled Cornelius' conversion (chapter 10), arguing God gave Gentiles the Spirit 'put no difference between us and them' (v.9). James then cited Amos 9:11-12, and the council decided against requiring circumcision (vv.19-20). This decision enabled Gentile Christianity to flourish.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does grace as the sole basis for salvation eliminate all human boasting?
2. What modern equivalents to circumcision do Christians add to the gospel of grace alone?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ	διὰ	τῆς	χάριτος	κυρίου	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ
But	that through	G3588	the grace	of the Lord	Jesus	Christ
G235	G1223		G5485	G2962	G2424	G5547
πιστεύομεν	σωθῆναι	καθ'	ὄν	τρόπον	κάκεῖνοι	
we believe	we shall be saved	even	G3739	as	they	
G4100	G4982	G2596		G5158	G2548	

Additional Cross-References

Romans 3:24 (Grace): Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Titus 2:11 (Salvation): For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Galatians 2:16 (Faith): Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (Grace): The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

Romans 6:23 (References Jesus): For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:15 (Grace): But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

1 Corinthians 16:23 (Grace): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (Grace): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Galatians 1:6 (Grace): I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

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