

# Acts 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

## Analysis

The Pharisee believers represent a significant faction within the early church who hadn't fully grasped grace. Though they believed in Christ, they maintained that Gentiles must keep 'the law of Moses' and be circumcised. This shows that theological error can persist even among genuine believers. The issue wasn't salvation by works per se, but adding requirements to Christ's finished work.

## Historical Context

These 'Pharisees which believed' had converted from the strictest Jewish sect. Their theological background made it difficult to accept that God would save uncircumcised Gentiles apart from Jewish law-keeping.

## Related Passages

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

1. How can believers hold to Christ yet still import legalistic thinking into their faith?

2. What does this teach about the difference between justification and sanctification?
3. In what ways might we unconsciously impose our cultural preferences as spiritual requirements?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐξανέστησαν	δέ	τινες	τῶν	ἀπὸ	τῆς	αἱρέσεως	τῶν
<b>there rose up</b>	<b>But</b>	<b>certain</b>	G3588	<b>of</b>	G3588	<b>the sect</b>	G3588
G1817	G1161	G5100		G575		G139	

  

Φαρισαίων	πεπιστευκότες	λέγοντες	ὅτι	δεῖ
<b>of the Pharisees</b>	<b>which believed</b>	<b>saying</b>	<b>That</b>	<b>it was needful</b>
G5330	G4100	G3004	G3754	G1163

  

περιτέμνειν	αὐτοὺς	παραγγέλλειν	τε	τηρεῖν	τὸν
<b>to circumcise</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>to command</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>them to keep</b>	G3588
G4059	G846	G3853	G5037	G5083	

  

νόμον	Μωϋσέως				
<b>the law</b>	<b>of Moses</b>				
G3551	G3475				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 15:1** (References Moses): And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.