

Turtle on a Fencepost

"The Life of Paul" episode 10

Acts 15:1-11

"Then the Christian Pharisees arrived....They were shocked by the laxity of the Antioch church... At once they began a campaign: 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses,' they told converts, 'you cannot be saved.' Everybody knew what they meant: 'Unless, after believing in Jesus, you become a proselyte by undergoing the surgical operation, and thereafter observe all the ceremonies and do the good works required by the Mosaic Law and keep ritually undefiled in addition to your trust in Jesus Christ, you cannot be saved; Jesus by Himself cannot fit a man for heaven.'" John Pollock, *The Apostle*

The argument that followed gave rise to the first and greatest Church Council, the Council at Jerusalem in 50 A.D., to answer two great questions:

- (1) What is the role of human performance in becoming a Christian?
- (2) What is the role of human performance in the Christian life?

When you see a turtle on a fencepost, you know it didn't get there by itself.
The famous quip by Mark Twain represents how you salvation.

1. Satan's Pattern of A : External first, internal second.

<u>External</u>	<u>Internal</u>	14:26-15:5
4:1-13	5:1-11	
5:17-42	6:1-7	
chapter 14	chapter 15	

2. Battlefield Rule of Reliability: F - _____ soldiers may see things clearer than the Armchair Generals. 15:1-5, 26

3. God's Pattern of Salvation: By Grace A through Faith A. 15:1,9,11 Gal. 2:11-16 Eph. 2:8-9