

## **Is God Legalistic or Gracious?**

### **Numbers 15:32-36; Psalm 19**

#### Introduction

- A Problem Passage!
- An angry God and his petty rules?
- Is the God of the OT different to the NT?
- Can't we just rip out this part of the Bible?

What is God like?

#### 1. God acts in grace

- Num 13 & 14 as the context
- The surprise of Numb 15:1
- Num 15:41

#### 2. God takes sin seriously

- Num 15:30-31 as the context – defiant sin
- Num 15:32-37 – concrete example

#### 3. God's goal = to grow a holy people

- No place for sin in the community
- 1 Peter 1:13-16

Objection – If God loves me, why can't I just get on with living life?

- How do we look at life?

#### 4. How do grace & obedience fit together in the Christian life?

- Num 15:37-41
- "grace fuelled obedience"

#### 5. Final Comments

- Sabbath?
- God's Spirit & God's Word for the year ahead