

“Jerusalem Meets Rome and Finds Babylon: A Study in Church Purity”

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

November 9, 2022

Disagreement in Doctrine – Acts 15

I. The Error Introduced and Confronted – vs 1-5

A. The Mindset behind Error – vs 1

1. Where it came from

- a. certain men came down from Judea (to Antioch 14:26) and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."
- b. From The sign of the Abrahamic Covenant - Gen 17:1-14;
- c. From the Law of Moses - Le 12:3
- d. A mindset of legalistic duty, promoting self-effort and hypocrisy – Gal 2:11-14

2. Why it was wrong

- a. Remembering where Paul received His Gospel – Gal 1:12,15-17; 2:2,6-7
- b. Remembering what Paul wrote about the preaching of a different Gospel – Gal 1:6-9;
- c. Remembering what Paul said about circumcision Gal 5:2; Col 2:10-11,16-17
- d. Remembering what Paul said about the keeping of the law in relation to salvation – Gal 2:16,21; 3:10-11,13-14

B. How to deal with it -vs 2-4

1. Error will bring conflict – vs 2a
2. The Church seeking wisdom from Jerusalem – vs 2b
 - a. Encouraging others along the way – vs 3
 - b. Giving the missions report to the Home Church – vs 4

II. In the Counsel of Many - vs 5-21

A. The Presentation of the Arguments – vs 5-12

1. Now, for the reason that we are here – vs 5

- a. some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up
- b. "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."

2. Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. And when there had been much dispute – vs 6-7a

3. Peter’s Argument – vs 7b-12

- a. God’s initial work w/ the Gentiles through me – Ac 10-11
- b. God’s proof that He was saving Gentiles
 - i. Gave them the Holy Spirit – vs 8
 - ii. made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. – vs 9

- c. Don't Repeat that which we couldn't even follow – vs 10
- d. Repeat of Salvation truth for all – vs 11
- e. An update of God's work among the Gentiles – vs 12

B. The Leaders Argument – vs 13-21

- 1. James' reiteration of Peter's first major point – vs 13-14
- 2. James' demonstration that the Word of God supports that point – vs 15-17
 - a. just as it is written
 - b. Am 9:11-12
- 3. James' demonstration that by the Character of God – vs 18
- 4. James' conclusion – vs 19-21
 - a. Let's not trouble them – vs 19
 - b. Let's ask them to abstain from things that cause trouble for their Jewish brethren – vs 20-21

III. Informing the Body – vs 22-35

A. The conclusion of the Counsel – vs 22

- 1. Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church,
- 2. to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

B. The Letter from the Counsel – vs 23-

- 1. Who the letter is from, to, greeting – vs 23
- 2. The presentation of the problem – vs 24
 - a. "You must be circumcised and keep the law"
 - b. --to whom we gave no such commandment--
- 3. The Conclusion of the counsel – vs 25
 - a. We have sent chosen men to tell you what we are writing – vs 25-27
 - b. If God doesn't require it, we don't require it – vs 28
 - c. Concerns of Love for your brethren - vs 29
- 4. The Arrival of the men and letter – vs 30-31
- 5. Encouraging the Body – vs 32
- 6. The Returning report – vs 33
- 7. Another joining the work – vs 34-35