



Acts 15:22-35

The Jerusalem Decision Delivered

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A Delegation Sent to Antioch

Acts 15:22, 23 (ESV)

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings.

- The answer came from the place where the problem began: Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-5)

Wrongful Words Trouble the Saints

Acts 15:24-26 (ESV)

Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and **troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions**, it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- These "words" did not come from the apostles
- False teaching always creates confusion

Freedom and Restraint

Acts 15:27-29 (ESV)

We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you **abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality**. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

- Avoid pagan temple defilement and eating blood

Joy and Encouragement

Acts 15:30-31 (ESV)

So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And when they had read it, **they rejoiced because of its encouragement.**

- The rejoicing was due to the decision not to enforce the previous demands (Acts 15:5)
- The agreed restrictions did not dampen joy
- They agreed to avoid the pagan temple pollutions from which God had saved them

Teaching and Preaching the Word

Acts 15:32-35 (ESV)

And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them. But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, **teaching and preaching the word of the Lord**, with many others also.

- They were able to get back to being focused on preaching the gospel and teaching believers

The Word of God Must Be Central

2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV)

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- Unauthorized law-givers distract from preaching what is binding on all
- There is no bad time for preaching God's word
- Preaching and teaching the word includes correcting error, exhorting obedience, and encouraging the saints

Redeemed by the Blood

1 Peter 1:18, 19 (NASB)

knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**

- We must appreciate what God has done in giving us our new status as Christians
- Peter is using Passover language to describe Christ as the perfect Lamb of God whose laid-down life saves believers from God's wrath