



Small Group Study Questions

Week 25

Acts 15:12-359 (NASB 1995)

12 All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

13 After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, “Brethren, listen to me. **14** Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name. **15** With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,

16 ‘After these things I will return,
And I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen,
And I will rebuild its ruins,
And I will restore it,

17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,’

18 Says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.

19 Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, **20** but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. **21** For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas—Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, **23** and they sent this letter by them,

“The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.

24 “Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with *their* words, unsettling your souls, **25** it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, **26** men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **27** “Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also report the same things by word *of mouth*. **28** “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: **29** that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication;]if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell.”

30 So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. **31** When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. **32** Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message. **33** After they had spent time *there*, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who had sent them out. **34** [But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.] **35** But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others also, the word of the Lord.

DIGGING DEEPER

Has there been a time where you had a task, but after completing it you determined that there was an easier way, or what you did was useless? Tell us about it.

Can you summarize last week's issue?

Read Acts 15:12-18

Are Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and now James all saying the same thing? What is that one thing?

What do verse 15-18 add to the authority that these church leaders had in their determination?

When there are disagreements in the church, what place should the Bible have?

Read Acts 15:19-21

How would you describe these directions that James suggests to give to the Gentiles?

What's the goal of having the Gentiles follow these few directions?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Acts 15:22-29

Is there anything surprising to you in this letter?

Read Acts 15:30-35

There was much teaching happening in the church in Antioch. What does that mean about the church there?

(Personal Question) What about you...do you enjoy listening to others teach scripture? Why or why not? What are the struggles of listening to the teaching of God's Word?

What are some Biblical topics that you would like to know more about? Share with the group and you can even share with Pastor Brent who can be looking for future studies.

TAKING IT HOME

PRAYER REQUEST

