

## GRACE PREVAILS AT THE FIRST CHURCH COUNCIL IN JERUSALEM (Acts 15:1-35)

### I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

### II. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, & SYRIA (8-12)

### III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (13-28)

#### A. The FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY of Paul & Barnabas (13-14)

##### 1. The First Church Council in Jerusalem (15:1-35)

###### a. The Doctrinal Dispute at Antioch (15:1-5)

1) The events of chapter 15 occur in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Paul's first (Acts 13-14) and second (Acts 15:36-18:22) missionary journeys.

2) The reason for the first church council in Jerusalem was the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish professing Christians who came from Judea to the church of Antioch spreading a false gospel of salvation through the \_\_\_\_\_ of circumcision and keeping the Law of Moses. (v. 1)

- *How can we distinguish between true and false brethren? (2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15, 26; Gal. 2:4; 1 John 2:19; Matt. 7:21-23)*

3) Paul and Barnabas responded to these false teachers by strongly \_\_\_\_\_ them (Eph. 5:11; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9-11; Jude 3) and also by seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church (Eph. 4:3, 13-15) by meeting with the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. (vv. 2-4)

- *Three distinct factions in the early church (vv. 1-5)*

Jewish Believers	Saved	Doctrinally Sound on Grace
Professing Jewish Believers (v. 1)	Unsaved	Legalistic False Gospel
Believing Jewish Pharisees (v. 5)	Saved	Legalistic on the Christian Life

###### b. The Declarations at the Council in Jerusalem (15:6-18)

1) Peter's testimony at the council emphasized \_\_\_\_\_ choice and past actions toward the Gentiles (Acts 10-11) and how Jews are saved in the \_\_\_\_\_ as Gentiles—by grace through faith. (vv. 7-11)

- *What can the Law do and not do?*

- 2) The testimony of Barnabas and Paul emphasized how \_\_\_\_\_ worked \_\_\_\_\_ through them toward the Gentiles on their first missionary journey (Acts 13–14; Gal. 3:1-5). (v. 12)
- 3) The testimony of James emphasized how the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Old Testament (Amos 9:11-12) were \_\_\_\_\_ with God’s actions in the present church age toward the Gentiles since He will call Gentiles (not just Jews) by His name after Christ returns and the temple is rebuilt. (vv. 13-18)

- *Was the church age, where Jew & Gentile are one in the body of Christ, revealed in the Old Testament? (Acts 15:18; Eph. 3:5-6, 9-11)*

#### **c. The Decision of the Council in Jerusalem (15:19-29)**

- 1) James concluded the meeting by declaring that Gentile believers should not be \_\_\_\_\_ with law-keeping but avoid four things particularly \_\_\_\_\_ and unlawful (Lev. 17:10-14) to \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 19-21)

- *Why would Gentile believers do this? (Rom. 14:13-21; 1 Cor. 8:7-13; 10:23-33; Gal. 5:13)*

- 2) The apostles, elders, and whole church unanimously \_\_\_\_\_ with James’ decision as they followed the \_\_\_\_\_ direction. (vv. 22-29; 2 Cor. 3:17)

- *What does this passage imply about church leadership?*

#### **d. The Delivery of the Letter to Antioch (15:30-35)**

- 1) The result of the council’s decision and letter was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 30-31)

- 2) Paul, Barnabas, and \_\_\_\_\_ stayed in Antioch to preach the word of the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ the church. (vv. 32-35)