

Acts 15

Questions

1. What did certain men from Judea come to Antioch to teach the brethren and who debated with them over this question (15:1-2)?
2. What did Paul and Barnabas declare to the brethren on their way to Jerusalem and in Jerusalem (15:3-4)?
3. What additional matter was being taught without divine authority (15:5)?
4. Who were present in the meeting that took place in Jerusalem (15:6)?
5. What did Peter say that answered the false teaching (15:7-11)?
6. What did Barnabas and Paul say that answered the false teaching (15:12)?
7. What did James say that answered the false teaching (15:13-18)?
8. What judgment did James have concerning the Gentiles (15:19-21)?
9. What decision was made by the apostles, the elders, and the whole church in Jerusalem (15:22-27)?
10. What was the basic counsel in the letter that was sent to the Gentile brethren (15:28-29)?

11. What was the reaction of the brethren when the letter was read in Antioch (15:30-31)?

12. What work in the Lord was done in Antioch (15:32-35)?

13. What plan did Paul and Barnabas make and how did they handle their disagreement (15:36-41)?

Digging Deeper

1. What passage in Galatians may be a reference to Paul's visit to Jerusalem in Acts 15? What epistle of Paul may have written around the time of this visit?

2. How do you come "down" to Antioch from Jerusalem when you are travelling north (15:1)?

3. Was the meeting in Jerusalem a religious "conference" in the classic sense in which doctrine is determined by certain ones in one location for all Christians everywhere (15:1-29)? Explain.

4. What OT scripture did James quote (15:16-18)?

5. What (or who) was the "tabernacle of David" referenced by the prophet Amos (15:16)?

6. Where are the following located: Judea, Jerusalem, Phoenicia, Samaria, Antioch, Syria, Cilicia, and Cyprus (15:1-3, 23, 30, 39, 41)?

Applications for Today

1. Never add conditions or anything to the word of God (15:1, 5; Rev. 22:18-19).
2. Debate against false teaching is a good thing (15:2; Jude 3).
3. Hearing that people have been converted to the Lord should make us joyful (15:3-4; Lk. 15:5-6, 9-10; Acts 11:18).
4. The truths of God's word are established by necessary inference (15:7-11), apostolic example (15:12), and direct statement (15:14-21).
5. Teaching what is false without divine authority does nothing but trouble brethren (15:24; Gal. 1:7)?
6. Like Barnabas and Paul, we need to be willing to sacrifice for the gospel and hazard (risk) our lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (15:26; 2 Cor. 11:23-33; Phil. 2:30).
7. Brethren who have been troubled by the teaching of error need to be exhorted with the teaching of the truth (15:30-35; Heb. 13:22).
8. It is good to check on Christians who are "young in the faith" to see how they are doing and give them confirmation in the word of God (15:32, 36, 41; Acts 14:22).
9. When you disagree with your brother over matters of opinion, press your point, but don't divide; keep doing the Lord's work together (15:37-41; Col. 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Tim. 4:11).