

THE DECLARATION THAT WAS SENT TO THE CHURCHES

(Acts 15:22-35)

- I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 1-2)
- II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 3-7)
- III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (chapters 8-12)
- IV. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD (chapters 13-28)

- A. Paul and Barnabas' Return to Jerusalem (15:1-5)
- B. Peter's Testimony at the Jerusalem Council (15:6-11)
- C. Paul and Barnabas' Testimony at the Jerusalem Council (15:12)
- D. James' Testimony at the Jerusalem Council (15:13-21)
- E. The Official Formulation of James' Decision (15:22-29)

1. James' solution to the problem of false doctrine being promoted (*as to how one is saved and how one is sanctified*) was to write a _____ to the Gentile churches explaining their _____ stance. (vv. 19-21)

2. James' suggestion was unanimously received by everyone; "*it pleased the _____ and _____, with the _____ church.*" (v. 22a)

3. The church in Jerusalem chose two men from its congregation, _____ and _____ to accompany Paul and Barnabas back to Antioch, in order to _____ what was written in the letter. (v. 22b, 27)

4. In v. 23 Luke confirms what we have suspected, before Paul's calling to the church in Antioch, the apostle had _____ the area of Syria and Cilicia, and _____ in the region. (v. 23)

5. From this letter the Gentile churches were informed that the legalistic Judaizers that were troubling the churches were _____ by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, _____ were they sent out by them. (v. 24)

6. The church's admiration and affection for these missionaries is evident in the words, "our _____ *Barnabas and Paul*," they were to be _____ because they had _____ their lives for Christ. (vv. 25-26)

7. The Holy Spirit was working in the hearts of these men to _____ about _____ in the churches, and thankfully they were _____ to Him. (v. 28a)

8. While the Jewish Christians were to resist any temptation to impose the _____ of the _____ on the Gentiles (v. 28b); likewise, the Gentile Christians were to resist the temptation to eat meat _____ to idols and _____. (v. 29)

F. The Personal Delivery of the Letter to Antioch (15:30-35)

1. Luke painted a picture of a very teachable, eager church in Antioch (made up predominantly of Gentiles) that was excited and _____ that the potential crisis was not only _____ but _____. (vv. 30-31)

2. Judas and Silas were prophetically gifted, and they used their gifts and teaching abilities to _____ and _____ the believers in Antioch; they eventually went back to Jerusalem. (vv. 32-33)

3. We do not know how long Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, but while they remained at their home church, they exercised their spiritual gifts of "_____ and _____ *the Word*" to the saints. (vv. 34-35)

* What can you personally learn from this passage?