

Acts 15

King James Version (KJV)

15 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. (Old school boys still practicing animal sacrifice; Jesus' crucifixion fulfilled all blood ordinances. An animal sacrifice to God, after the crucifixion of Jesus, is an insult to God. Circumcision of males was not longer mandated. Also, the crucifixion opened Christianity to all people, not just Israelites. That's why God sent Peter and then Paul to the gentiles. These guys missed the coming of Messiah and were holding on to Judaism, instead of recognizing Christianity)

²When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. (The beginning of division in Christianity- Today these are called denominations. This is what happens when men take over churches. It starts as a disagreement, and then devolves into teaching false doctrine) See Collossians-2:3-4

³And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. (Salvation was opened to all people so they continued to teach people as they traveled)

⁴And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. (They told the apostles of their progress in converting people to Christianity)

⁵But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. (What did they believe? Apparently they didn't believe Jesus)

⁶And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

⁷And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. Acts-10 (God told Peter to call no

man common and to preach the Word to them. Man has no right to overrule God's command)

⁸And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; (They spoke in the cloven tongue of the Holy Spirit. This was proof to Peter that God was with them)

⁹And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. (God didn't differentiate the gentiles from the Israelites, so men should not either. After Jesus opened salvation to all, preachers should not exclude anyone who believes and wants God's salvation)

(We still see this today when ignorant preachers treat divorced people as second class citizens and refuse women the right to preach and teach. Jesus didn't exclude women or divorcees. Paul said that women shouldn't chatter in church. No one should chatter in church. That doesn't exclude women from becoming preachers. Paul was a Bible teacher, not a prophet)

¹⁰Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? (People failed by the law alone. We need repentance and forgiveness that Jesus provides, or no one will make it)

¹¹But we believe that through the grace of the LORD Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. (The law is still in effect but Jesus opened the door to repentance and forgiveness. HE didn't end the law)

¹²Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. (This should have been enough to convince the whole bunch. It wasn't)

¹³And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

¹⁴Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. [Luke-1:68](#)

¹⁵And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, (This was all foretold)

¹⁶ After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

¹⁷ That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. **Amos-9 (If they are calling on God for salvation, they shall receive it)**

¹⁸ Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. **(God's plan started at the beginning of time and has not changed one bit)**

¹⁹ Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: **(my sentence is, = my judgment is) (The gentiles were not under the the ordinances of Moses. They were under the Law of God – the Ten Commandments)**

²⁰ But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. **(The food health laws. This is not against blood transfusions) (The blood ordinances were fulfilled by Jesus) (These are ordinances to help people to remain healthy in their daily lives. When you butcher an animal for food, drain the blood out to prevent putrifaction)**

(The 10 commandments are the law, and Jesus did not change one bit of the law. Christians are bound to obey the law of God)

²¹ For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day. **(The Jews are still preaching the Mosaic ordinances to the Jews in the synagogues)**

²² Then pleased it the apostles and elders with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas and Silas, chief men among the brethren: **(Barsabas = son of the Sabbath; Silas = woody)**

²³ And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.

²⁴ Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such

commandment: (They came on their own; we didn't send them. Don't listen to them and stick with the teachings of Jesus, through Paul and his group)

²⁵ It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

²⁶ Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷ We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. (They were sending other witnesses to teach them)

²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; (They will not burden you with the Mosaic ordinances. They will only teach the Word that Jesus gave us and the Ten Commandments which is the law of God)

²⁹ That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. (These are health ordinances, to keep them healthy)

³⁰ So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: (epistle = a letter)

³¹ Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation. (They rejoiced because salvation was now opened to them and they didn't have to be Israelites to be saved. All they had to do was believe in Jesus Christ as God with us, and obey the 10 commandments)

³² And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them. (They taught the Word of God. They word prophet can also be translated – teacher)

³³ And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.

³⁴ Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still. (He stayed there to continue the ministry. It is believed that Salas was a Hellenist with Roman citizenship)

³⁵ Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. (They built up a following to teach more and more people)

³⁶ And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do. (Go back and check progress on the ministries that they have started)

³⁷ And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

³⁸ But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. (When things got rough, Mark John went back to Jerusalem. Maybe Paul thinks that he's not up to this. Things could get rough again <beatings, imprisonment, and Paul even got stoned>)

³⁹ And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; (Paul and Barnabas split up over this disagreement)

⁴⁰ And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God. (Barnabas was not a Roman. Paul and Silas were both Roman citizens. It was dangerous where they were going. Their Roman citizenship would help them out of a few jams)

⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches. (They are branching out to expand the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is guiding them to different places)