

The Jerusalem Council

Judaism Issue

Acts 15:1-35

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Theme Statement: The Jerusalem Council demonstrated that the LORD God has equipped His church with able spiritual leaders to resolve even the most sensitive issues and, in this case, to clarify for all times the doctrine of Salvation by faith alone through Christ alone.

The Issue - v. 1, 5

1. Is _____ a necessity for _____?
2. Should a person who is saved be required to _____ and to _____?

The Reasons Behind the Issue - Background

1. A _____ of Non-Jews (Gentiles) were being saved
2. Circumcision was given to Abraham as a _____ and was included by Moses in the _____
3. First Century Judaism is based upon _____ anchored in the _____ and _____

The Strategy for Resolution - v. 2-4

1. Paul and Barnabas _____ the Antioch church against the _____
2. The Antioch church decided to _____ to the apostles and elders at the Jerusalem church

The Final Decision - v. 6-21

1. The Speech of Peter - v. 7-11
 - a. Peter reminded the brethren that God had chosen him to _____ through the interaction with Cornelius
 - b. Peter reminded them that God, Who knows the heart, had given the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles in the _____ as He had given the Holy Spirit to the Jews _____
 - c. Peter warned the Judaizers about _____ by placing extra burdens on the Gentiles which even the Jews could not bear
 - d. Contrary to the Judaizers who wanted the _____ to be "saved" like the _____, Peter believed that true salvation of the _____ is like the salvation of the _____, through the grace of God

2. The Speech of Paul and Barnabas - v. 12 - God had _____ their ministry of the gospel to the Gentiles with _____
3. The Speech of James - v. 13-18
 - a. James confirmed Peter's evangelistic work with the Gentiles with _____ (Amos 9:11-12)
 - b. James quote refers to the millennial kingdom in which Gentiles will be included as _____ and not _____
4. The Decision of James - v. 19-21
 - a. James confirmed that salvation is _____ without mentioning _____
 - b. James also requested that the Gentiles _____ themselves from their pagan background in areas that might be _____ to the Jews

The Communication to the Church - v. 22-30

1. In addition to Paul, Barnabas and the other Antioch members, " _____ " to send two of Jerusalem's leaders, Judas and Silas, back to the church at Antioch to communicate the decision.
2. The Jerusalem Council decision was _____ for the Antioch church as well as for all future Gentile and Jewish churches
3. The written letter was _____ to the Antioch church and probably _____ to the whole congregation

The Response of the Church - v. 31-35

1. The Church _____, was _____, was _____ and was at _____ with the church at Jerusalem
2. The Church resumed _____

Implications

1. It is crucial for the church and its members to _____ and to _____
2. God has equipped the church with _____ to resolve even the most difficult issues