

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are sins against the Holy Spirit? How serious are they?
2. Why are people “filled with indignation?”
3. What served to convince the council of the wisdom of Paul and Barnabas’ words?
4. What reaction to the truth do we see today?

SUMMARY:

The question before the council was one of ceremonialism. Certain ones converted from Judaism, who themselves had previously been circumcised, now laid this before the Gentiles as being necessary for salvation (vs. 1). Later, Paul wrote that this is necessary, but only as a spiritual circumcision (Philippians 3:3; Colossians 2:11). Today some teach that salvation is attained by church membership, others that baptism affects salvation. These are good and necessary in God’s plan, but we should remember first things must come first, namely, repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ^[SoF:7] (Acts 20:21). May we too, learn the lesson of the council. If our teachings fit the Word of God and do not hinder then they are indeed His teachings.

NOTES:

^[SoF:6] We believe that all are sinners and lost, awaiting the judgment of God, but God is not willing that any should be lost. ^[SoF:7] We believe that the sinner may have salvation by repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. ^[SoF:8] We believe that a saving faith will result in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God without which there is no salvation.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

March 21, 2010

First Quarter

THE COUNCIL IN JERUSALEM

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 15:1-35; James 3:13-18*

LESSON SETTING: Among the Gentile brethren in Antioch and elders and apostles in Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 51 AD

- I. A SERIOUS PROBLEM.** Acts 15:1-5
 - A. Ceremonialism Demanded (vs. 1, 5) Galatians 4:9; Hebrews 9:10
 - B. Dissension and Disputation (vs. 2) 1 Corinthians 1:11; 11:18-19
- II. PETER’S TESTIMONY.** Acts 15:6-12
 - A. Gospel For All Men^[SoF:6] (vs. 7-9) Matthew 24:14; Luke 24:47
 - B. Men’s Hearts Searched (vs. 8) Jeremiah 17:10; John 2:25
 - C. Saved by Grace^[SoF:7,8] (vs. 11) Romans 3:24; Titus 2:11-12
- III. THE CHURCH’S DECISION.** Acts 15:13-35
Abstain from:
 - A. Pollutions of Idols (vs. 20, 29) 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 - B. Fornication (vs. 20, 29) 1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:8
 - C. Blood (vs. 20, 29) Genesis 9:4; Deuteronomy 12:16
- IV. TRUE WISDOM.** James 3:13-18
 - A. Pure (vs. 17) Psalm 24:3-4; Matthew 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:5
 - B. Peaceable (vs. 17) Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14
 - C. Merciful (vs. 17) Proverbs 11:17; Matthew 5:7
 - D. Full of good fruits (vs. 17) Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9; Colossians 1:10

GOLDEN TEXT: *A MAN IS NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW, BUT BY THE FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST.* Galatians 2:16

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: James 5:7-20

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Job 1:1-22; 42:1-13

QUARTERLY THEME: The First Church Officers

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN PATIENCE

INTRODUCTION:

Patience! Our entire lesson is based on patience. How God in His wisdom must have seen our need of this most precious quality.

We have heard much of the patience of Job, but do we really understand it? He suffered so much at the hand of Satan, yet patiently and persistently enduring, trusted God in all things. Are we as faithful in our trials or are we prone to “throw in the towel” in surrender to these experiences?

Even when things are going well and we are able to witness for God, we too, often expect to see souls turn to the Lord immediately. Look at our lesson. A farmer plants seed, yet he must have long patience before he can reap the harvest. We can plant and water but only God can make the seed grow. Those who patiently work and wait will receive a sure harvest. God will reward our labors, but in His own time and His own way.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Those who patiently work and wait will receive sure harvest.

GOLDEN TEXT: *BE YE ALSO PATIENT, STABLISH YOUR HEARTS: FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH.*
[SoF:5]

James 5:8

Perhaps one of the hardest lessons for a Christian to learn is patience. Even though we trust God's Word [SoF: 1] and believe that He is coming soon, [SoF:5] we may become impatient in our service especially when we face trials and opposition. We ought rather to allow these experiences to be a means of strengthening to us and an establishing of our hearts. We ought to become more humble and more meek and more devoted to our gracious Lord.

We see so much rebellion and antagonism displayed today by some in the name of religion and if we do not keep our eyes on Jesus we also may be tempted to go this same way. The Jews wanted Jesus to take such a path, but He taught submission and patience. It must have seemed a strange way to those who sought relief from oppression, but this is God's way. We must learn to trust Him more and believe that He will see us through.

DAILY BIBLE READING FOR THE WEEK OF March 22 – 28

M. A Picture of Peace. Job 1:1-5

T. Satan's Attack. Job 1:6-19

W. The Triumph of Patience. Job 42:1-13

T. The Cause of Christian Failure. James 4:1-6

F. The Secret of Christian Victory. James 4:7-17

S. The Reason for Judgment. James 5:1-6

S. *The Value of Patience. James 5:7-20

[SoF:1] We believe that the Bible has been inspired by God, and is the complete and infallible Word of God. [SoF:5] We believe in Christ's bodily resurrection and His ascension to the right hand of God, and that He will make a personal return to earth in power and glory.