

Jerusalem Council, pt. 4
Acts 15:19-35
August 28, 2022

Review: Watershed moment in life of the church.

- “You must be circumcised and obey the Law of Moses to be saved.”
- Disagreement – Jerusalem – Peter – Barnabas & Paul – James

Story:

- James’ judgment (15:19-21)
 - We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles...
 - BUT... Abstain from food polluted by idols; sexual immorality; meat of strangled animals; blood.
- The Delegation (15:22) - Paul & Barnabas; Judas & Silas (two leaders)
- The Letter (15:23-29)
 - Authority – “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...”
 - Salvation – By faith alone (NO OTHER REQUIREMENTS NEEDED)
 - But... See above.
- The Letter delivered and Response (15:30-35)

Keys:

- So, what is at stake here? Why give such a “burdensome” list?
- Answer: List given because of the issue of Jew and Gentile living in community together. (See also 1 Corinthians 8-10; Romans 14:1-15:7)
- Key: The list focuses on items that would be particularly heinous to the Jewish portion of the church.
 - See Leviticus 17-18 – Laws incumbent on the resident alien & Israel.
 - Food sacrificed to idols – Lev 17:7
 - Blood – Lev 17:10
 - Strangled animals – Lev 17:13
 - Sexual Immorality – 18:26
 - “You will do well to avoid these things.”

Application:

- Are you willing to yield your rights for the sake of another?
 - See Philippians 2:3-4
 - 1 Cor 9:22