

Acts 15:13-35

It Seemed Good to the Holy Spirit

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All verses are from the New King James Version, 1985 Thomas Nelson

Acts 15:1 And certain men came down from Judea [Jerusalem area] and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, **you cannot be saved.**" *Go to verse 12* Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the [uncircumcised] Gentiles. 13 And after they had become silent, **James** [*half brother of Jesus*] **answered**, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to **me**: 14 Simon [*Peter*] has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. (Acts 10-11) 15 And with this **the words of the prophets agree**, just as it is written: 16 'After! this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; 17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things.' (Amos 9:11-12) 18 "Known to God from eternity are all His works. 19 Therefore I judge that we should not trouble [*with religion*] those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, 20 but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.

1 Cor 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Acts 15:21 For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

Acts 21:20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law; 21 but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. **Go to verse 25** But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written and decided that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality."

Eph 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision [*Jews*] made in the flesh by hands — 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both [*Jew and Gentile believer*] one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation [*which was the religious law*], 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man [*the Christian Church*] from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both [*Jew and Gentile believer*] to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who

were afar off [*Gentiles*] and to those who were near [*Jews*]. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Acts 15:22 Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. 23 They wrote this, letter by them: The apostles [not Peter], the elders [pastors – 1 Peter 5:1-2], and the brethren [congregants], to the brethren who **are of the Gentiles** in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. 24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law" — **to whom we gave no such commandment** — 25 it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. 28 For **it seemed good to the Holy Spirit**, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 29 that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell. 30 So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. 32 Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. 33 And after they had stayed there for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles. 34 However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there. 35 Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.