

# Acts of the Apostles 15:19-41 \_\_ Lesson 37

## *The Epistle to Gentiles*

### 1. Acts 15:20-32 – The Epistle to Gentiles (from Jerusalem)

- a. 15:19-20– The sentence: they are not under yoke of the law, but abstain from  
1) idolatry, 2) fornication, 3) meats... Paul adds remember the poor – Gal 2:10
- b. 15:21 – “*For Moses... them that preach him*” – For the Jews’ sake, not Gentiles
- c. 15:22 – Pleased apostles, elders, whole church – unanimous, not a private opinion
- d. 15:23 – Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, Cilicia... remember Gal 1:17-22 was in Acts 9!
- e. 15:24 – “*subverting your souls*”- a salvation issue, but they did not want trouble
  - i. “*went out from us*” – Perhaps false brethren... Jam 2:3-6, 1 John 2:19
  - ii. “*keep the law*” → no commandment from Jerusalem, Isa 2:3 **not** fulfilled
- f. 15:28 – “*good to the Holy Ghost*” – acknowledging God’s grace mission to Paul
- g. 15:29 – The same things Corinthians would be admonished about – 1Cor 10:23+
  - i. Paul teaches all things are lawful, not all things are edifying. Rom 8:4
- h. “*multitude... rejoiced*” – The multitude in Antioch was under Paul’s gospel
- i. “*confirmed them*” - They did not correct or rebuke, but confirmed Paul’s ministry

### 2. Acts 15:33-35 – Silas

- a. 15:33 – “*let go in peace*” – The ‘no small disputation’ in 15:1-2 had been reconciled
- b. “*there a space*” – a space of (sufficient) time, “notwithstanding... Silas” ← removed
- c. Silas, also called **Silvanus**, a chosen chief man of the Jerusalem company - 15:22
  - i. He was a prophet, traveler, and messenger – Acts 15:32, 1 Pet 5:12
  - ii. Like Paul he was jailed as a Roman citizen and a Jew - Acts 16:37
  - iii. Called an apostle (one sent to establish) & companion by Paul - 1 Th 1:1, 2:6
  - iv. He was “recommended ... unto the grace of God” – Acts 15:40
- d. 15:35 – “*word of the Lord*” not here defined, but 1Co 14:37, 1 Th 4:8,15, 1Ti 6:3

### 3. Acts 15:36-41 – Contention with Barnabas

- a. “*see how they do*” – Paul’s leadership: evaluation, set in order, care of the churches
- b. John Mark – Peter stayed in his mothers house in Jerusalem - Acts 12:12
  - i. Also called **Marcus**, Peter calls him “son” – 1 Pet 5:13; gospel of Mark
  - ii. Barnabas’ nephew – Mary is Barnabas sister – Col 4:10
  - iii. Taken to Antioch, and traveled with Paul & Barnabas in Acts 12:25, 13:5
  - iv. He departed in Acts 13:13. Why? Paul considers him not good for the work.
  - v. Theories - Danger (15:26-27), Gentile question (13:11-13), Paul sins?
  - vi. If the same Mark, he later became profitable to Paul → Phm 24, 2 Tim 4:11
- c. 15:39 - Barnabas last seen in Cyprus (15:39), except for the dissimulation - Gal 2:13
  - i. His role of mediator between Paul and Peter is finished – Acts 9-15
  - ii. The rest of Acts concerns Paul’s ministry of Christ rejected by Jews/Israel
- d. 15:40 – “*recommended... unto the grace of God*” affirms his special apostleship