



“Clarifying the Gospel” Part 1

Acts 15:1-12 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction – The apostle Paul and Barnabas travel back from their first missionary journey to the church which sent them in Syrian Antioch and then on to Jerusalem for a church council assembled to clarify the message of the Gospel of Christ.

I. The Importance of the Gospel’s Accuracy.

A. Paul and Barnabas leave a thriving ministry to travel to Jerusalem to convene a church council on the content of the Gospel.

B. Historically, the most important theological issues were settled by Church Councils.

1. The Council in Jerusalem 48 AD.

2. The Council in Nicea 325 AD.

3. The Council in Constantinople in 381 AD.

4. The Council on Chalcedon in 451 AD.

C. Ancient and modern people don’t like the concept of “absolute Truth.”

1. Truth is not relative.

2. Truth isn’t about how you feel.

3. Truth is something you must submit to.

II. The Debate Over the Gospel’s Freedom.

A. Jewish believers insisted that Gentile believers must be circumcised and follow the Mosaic ritual Laws.

B. But Paul and Barnabas witnessed uncircumcised Gentiles believe in Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit.

C. They argued that the Gospel gives us two kinds of freedom.

1. Cultural freedom.

2. Spiritual freedom.

D. The Gospel takes burdens off.

1. Believe in Jesus.

2. Receive forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift of grace.

E. Whenever you add something to the Gospel, it ceases being the Gospel.

Conclusion.