

Show DVD
(Slide 1)

“Is Salvation Dependent Upon Tradition Or Faith?”

Acts 15:1-6

(Slide 2)

And certain Men [Jewish Pharisee Converts to Christianity from the Jerusalem Church Council (*‘Judiazers’*)] came down from Judea and taught the Brethren, *“Unless you are circumcised according to the Custom of Moses, you cannot be saved!”* Therefore, Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with Them (*‘Judiazers’*) ...

(Slide 3)

... (Then) They (Antioch Church Council of Elders) determined that Paul and Barnabas and Certain Others of Them (Chosen Church Contingent) should go up to Jerusalem, to the Apostles and Elders (Jerusalem Church Council), about this question ...

(Slide 4)

... So, being sent on Their (Paul, Barnabas, & Chosen Church Contingent) way by the (Antioch) Church, They passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the Conversion of the Gentiles; and They caused *Great Joy* to all the Brethren ...

(Slide 5)

... And when They (Paul, Barnabas, & Chosen Church Contingent) had come to Jerusalem, They were received by the (Jerusalem) Church and the Apostles and the Elders (Church Council); and They reported *All the Things* that God had done with Them ...

(Slide 6)

... But Some of the Sect of the Pharisees [Jerusalem Elders on the Church Council (*‘Judiazers’*)] who believed rose up, saying, *“It is necessary to circumcise Them (Gentile Converts to Christianity), and to command Them to keep the (whole) Law of Moses!”* Now the Apostles and Elders (Jerusalem Church Council) came together to consider this matter (fully).

Acts 15:1-6 (NKJV)

(Slide 7)

“Is Salvation Dependent Upon Tradition Or Faith?”

Acts 15:1-6

The 1st Church Council Ever Held Was Of Great Importance To The Future Of The Church’s Success In Providing A Framework Of What Was Important & What Was Not When It Came To Orthodox Essential Theology & Understanding Of The Gospel Message & The Minimum Interaction Between God’s Chosen Old Testament People, The Jews, & God’s New Testament People, The Rest Of Humanity, The Gentiles! Thus, Luke Gave This 1st Church Council Top Billing In His Second Half Of The Book Of Acts, Found Here In Chapter 15.

(Slide 8)

1st Ever Ecumenical Council of the Church Asked Three Essential Theological Questions!

1) “Are The Old Traditions & Signs Of Faith Necessary For All Peoples Who Put Their Faith & Trust In God, Through His Son, Jesus Christ?”

(With A Special Emphasis On Circumcision)

(Slide 9)

2) “What Is The Proper Way To Worship The One True God?”

3) “What Foods & Purity Laws Are Essential For Good Health & Wholeness In Mind, Body, & Sprit?”

The Answers To These Fundamental Theological Framework Questions Concerning The Christian Faith Were Primarily Answered By Peter, Paul, James the Brother of Jesus (Head of the Church in Jerusalem), & The Other 11 Apostles & Other Disciple Elders Gathered Together.

(Slide 10)
**First, Peter Gave Their Ruling On Questions 1 - 3
Concerning Traditions & Signs- Especially Circumcision**

(Slide 11)

Peter rose up and said to **Them (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates)**: *“Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago **God** chose among **Us (Jews)**, that by my mouth the **Gentiles** should hear the **Word of the Gospel** and **Believe (Answer - #1)** ...*

(Slide 12)

*... **God, Who** knows the heart, acknowledged **Them (Gentiles)** by giving **Them** the **Holy Spirit**, just as **He** did to **Us (Jews)**, and made no distinction between **Us (Jews)** and **Them (Gentiles)**, purifying **Their Hearts** by **Faith (Answer - #2)**.” ...*

(Slide 13)

*... “Now therefore, why do **You (‘Judiazers’)** test **God** by putting a yoke on the neck of the **Disciples** which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear (**Answer - #3**)? But **We (Jews)** believe that through the **Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ We (Jews)** shall be **Saved** in the same manner as **They (Gentiles)**.”*
Acts 15:7-11

(Slide 14)

Second, Paul & Barnabas Confirmed The Councils Declaration & Rulings As Approved By God Then all the **Multitude (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates)** kept silent and listened to **Barnabas** and **Paul** declaring how many **Miracles (Signs)** and **Wonders God** had worked through them among the **Gentiles**.
Acts 15:12

(Slide 15)

Third, James the Brother of Jesus Declared Prophetically God’s Intentions & Rulings And after **They (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates)** became silent, and **James (Jesus’ Brother)** answered, *“Men and brethren, listen to me: **Simon (Peter)** has declared how **God** at the first visited the **Gentiles** to take out of **Them** a **People for His Name**. And with this the **Words of the Prophets** all agree, just as it is written ...*

(Slide 16)

*... “After this **I** will return and **I** will rebuild the **Tabernacle of David**, which has fallen down; **I** will rebuild its ruins, and **I** will set **It** up; 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.’ Known to **God** from eternity are all **His Works**.”*
Acts 15:13-18

(Slide 17)

Finally, James the Brother of Jesus Declared The Church’s Rulings On Questions 1 - 3 Then, **James the Brother of Jesus** Declared, *“Therefore **I** judge that we should not trouble those from among the **Gentiles Who** are turning to **God (Answer - #1)**, but that **We (Whole Combined Church Council & Delegates)** write to **Them (Gentiles)** to abstain from things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality (**Answer - #2**), and from things strangled, and from blood (**Answer - #3**).”*
Acts 15:19-21

(Slide 18)

Q

“What Is The Timing Of This Church Council & Paul’s Three Different Trips To Jerusalem?”

(Slide 19)

A

Paul 1st Jerusalem Visit (Early 39 A.D.)
Sent By The Church Into Exile To His Hometown Of Tarsus

(Slide 20)

A

Paul 2nd Jerusalem Visit (Late 47 A.D.)

Financial Aid Sent From Antioch Church To Jerusalem Church For The Coming Famine

Prior '**Judiazers**' Disruptive Events – Led To A Private Meeting In Jerusalem
With The "**Three Pillars**" [James (Jesus' Brother) John & Peter (Apostles)]

(See Galatians 2:1-14)

(Slide 21)

A

Paul 3rd Jerusalem Visit (Early 49 A.D.)

Sent As A Delegate From Antioch Church To The 1st Official Church Council In Jerusalem

(Slide 22)

And certain Men [Jewish Pharisee Converts to Christianity from the Jerusalem Church Council ('**Judiazers**')] came down from Judea and taught the Brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the Custom of Moses, you cannot be saved!" Therefore, Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with Them ('**Judiazers**') ... Acts 15:1-2a

(Slide 23)

... "Since we have heard that Some who went out from us ('**Judiazers**') have troubled You (Gentile Converts to Christianity) with words, unsettling Your Souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law", to whom We (Apostles) gave no such commandment! Acts 15:24

(Slide 24)

Q

*"Are These '**Judiazers**' Spoken About By Anyone Else
But Paul In The History Of The 1st Century AD?"*

A – Yes!

The Historian Philo

(Slide 25)

Q

"What Is The Timing Of These Disputes & Debates In The Antioch Church?"

A

Late 47 – Early 49 A.D.

(Slide 26)

Q

"Who Are Those To That Dispute With The Believers In The Church & With Paul & Barnabas?"

A – '**Judiazers**'

Jewish Pharisee Converts to Christianity Who Came From The Jerusalem Church Council

(Slide 27)

Q

*"What Do These '**Judiazers**' Believe About Being A True Christian Convert?"*

A

They Believe That Circumcision & All The Jewish Customs, Laws, & Traditions (Old Testament) Must Be Kept Alongside All That Jesus Taught (New Testament) As Well!

(Slide 28)

Q

*"So, What Did The Church In Antioch Decide To Do
In Order To Combat These Disputes, Debates, & Distractions?"*

A

They Chose Some Among Their Council & Sent Them With Paul & Barnabas To Bring This Issue Before All The Apostles & The Main Church Council Of Elders In Jerusalem!

(Slide 29)

... (Then) **They** (**Antioch Church Council of Elders**) determined that **Paul** and **Barnabas** and **Certain Others of Them** (**Chosen Church Contingent**) should go up to Jerusalem, to the **Apostles and Elders** (**Jerusalem Church Council**), about this question ... **Acts 15:2b**

(Slide 30)

Q

“What Did Paul & Barnabas Do As They Traveled?”

A

They Followed Their Model For Traveling & Testifying To The Gospel Of Good News!

1) Return, 2) Report, & 3) Encourage

(Slide 31)

... So, being sent on **Their** (**Paul, Barnabas, & Chosen Church Contingent**) way by the (**Antioch Church**), **They** passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the Conversion of the Gentiles; and **They** caused **Great Joy** to all the **Brethren** ... **Acts 15:3**

(Slide 32)

Q

“What Do Paul & Barnabas Do Immediately Upon Arrival In Jerusalem?”

A

They Followed Their Model For Reporting / Writing To A Church

1) Greeting, 2) Reception, & 3) Report

(Slide 33)

... And when **They** (**Paul, Barnabas, & Church Contingent**) had come to Jerusalem, **They** were received by the (**Jerusalem**) **Church** and the **Apostles** and the **Elders** (**Church Council**); and **They** reported **All the Things** that God had done with **Them** ... **Acts 15:4**

(Slide 34)

Q

“What Do The ‘Judiazers’ Do Immediately Upon Hearing All That God Was Doing In The Lives Of The Gentiles?”

A

They Immediately Present Their Arguments & Start A Dispute & Debate With Paul & Barnabas!

(Slide 35)

... But **Some** of the **Sect of the Pharisees** [**Jerusalem Elders on the Church Council** (**‘Judiazers’**)] who believed rose up, saying, *“It is necessary to circumcise **Them** (**Gentile Converts to Christianity**), and to command **Them** to keep the (**whole**) Law of Moses!”* ... **Acts 15:5**

(Slide 36)

Q

“What Do The Apostles & Combined Elders Of The Jerusalem Church Council Do In Response To These Disruptive Questions?”

A

They Immediately Come Together In Unity & Consider All These Matters Fully!

(Slide 37)

... Now the **Apostles** and **Elders** (**Jerusalem Church Council**) came together to consider this matter (fully) ... **Acts 15:6**

(Slide 38)

Q

*“In Light Of This Evidence,
What Are We, God’s Church Gathered This Morning In Unity
To Do With This Central Question?”*

CQ

“Is Salvation Dependent Upon Tradition Or Faith?”

(Slide 39)

A – We Are To Answer That Questions Again & Again!

**Wherever A Dispute, A Disagreement, Or Disunity Arises
In The Body Of Christ His Church With The Answer Given To Us ...**

(Slide 40)

**... By The Full Weight Of All The Scriptures In The Entirety Of The Bible,
The Full Weight Of All Of Jesus Our Lord's Teaching In The Gospels,
The Full Weight Of All Of His Apostles Teaching In The New Testament,
& The Full Weight Of The Orthodox Theology Of The Church Ever Since!**

(Slide 41)

CA

Salvation Is Dependent Yesterday, Today, & Forevermore On **FAITH ALONE!**