

The Gospel Refined

Acts 15:1-35

PART FIVE

Introduction

Because He saw God's love given to *all* men, Jesus demanded that His people love their fellowman.

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 John 4:11-12

IV. The Delegation – vv22-29

v22

"They sent..."

"Judas called Barsabbas"

"Silas"

"leading men"

They, "appointed elders for them in every church." Acts 14:23

Hebrews 13:7

v23

"brothers...brothers"

This kind humble affection can only happen when the shared love of Christ is operating in the hearts of believers.

"greetings"

v24

"troubled" Gk *tarasso*; 'to perplex, stir up, deeply disturb.'

Galatians 1:6-7

Galatians 5:10

"unsettling your minds/subverting your souls" 'to upset, unsettle'

God hates legalism, attempting to earn favor with God through meritorious acts, but He loves law.

Following the letter of the law to gain favor with God is attempting to circumvent the cross of His Son.

2 Corinthians 3:6

God desires obedience.

Willing, submissive obedience to God's law is the expression of our love for Him when it comes from a grateful *heart* that desires His glory (Rom. 6:17; Eph. 6:6).

Legalism seeks the glory of man. Grace reveals the glory of God.

Obedience to OT law resulted in blessings. Disobedience to OT law resulted in cursings.

With NT law, 'the law of Christ,' God is saying, 'Because of the finished work of Christ, you have already received *all* of His merit and the blessings God promised and none of the cursings.

Grace is receiving *unmerited/unearned* favor from God. Salvation is a gift given to undeserving sinners.

Therefore, live in a manner worthy of someone who has received the full blessing of God in Jesus Christ.

Acts 13:34

Isaiah 55:3

Psalms 89:28

All these blessings are ours eternally in Jesus Christ who inherited God's promise to king David!

The law to us now in Christ is "the law of Christ," "the royal law," "the law of liberty"!

- How foolish is it then when Christians do what God says in order to earn God's approval;
- or, they do what God says thinking they must in order to deserve God's love for them;
- or, they do what God says in order to keep their salvation secure!

"keep yourselves in the love of God" (Jude 21),

Jude isn't implying that God's love is earned or self-generated. He is saying 'Abide in His love, a love that will never be taken away!

Romans 8:31-39

John 15:9-10

v25 v26 v27

"*one accord*" mentioned again to stress the importance of maintaining unity in the body of Christ.

v28 v29

"*For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit*"

When all parties in the body of Christ have the Holy Spirit and consider matters from the Scriptures and seek the Spirit's guidance, we should expect *unanimity*.

Acts 5:32

We can only be sure that we are being led by the Spirit when we consult the Scriptures and obey them.

"If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

This letter is composed by "brothers" and delivered to "brothers."

"Brotherly affection, rather than authority imposing its will, breathes here" (Maclaren).

IV. The Delivery – vv30-35

v30 - v33

"they were sent off in peace"

There can be no real peace in the absence of truth.

True peace has been secured among the brethren!

"So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." Romans 14:19

2 Corinthians 13:11

v35

Revelation 7:9-12