BETHEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Pastor Brian Gerber | Sunday, July 19, 2020

The Dispute in Council | Acts 15

1. The dispute parties

   A. The Pharisees advocated faith plus Old Testament works for salvation
   B. Paul and Barnabas taught salvation by faith alone.

2. The council debate

   A. Peter: God accepted the Gentiles by faith alone, as evidenced by the giving of the Holy Spirit.
   B. Paul and Barnabas: God accepted the Gentiles by faith alone, as witnessed by miracles.
   C. James: God accepted the Gentiles by faith alone, as witnessed by Scripture.

3. The resolution: The resolution of the council rejected the idea that believers had to become Jewish, or to work for salvation. But it demanded the Gentiles respect the beliefs of the Jews, and that they leave idolatry.

4. The letter

5. The response

6. A second dispute

Application:

1. The Devil untiringly works to promote division among Christians.

2. The Bible instructs us how to avoid division which can come from disputes.

3. Always maintain an attitude of forgiveness.