

<sup>15.1</sup> Coming down from the province of Iudaea, some began teaching the brothers in Syrian Antioch,

“If you are not circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you are not able to be rescued!”

<sup>2</sup> After Paul and Barnabas had a considerable standoff and investigation against them, Paul, Barnabas, and some others from among them were ordered to go up to the representatives and elders in Jerusalem about this debate.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, being sent on by the community, they went through Phoenicia and Samaria, bringing great joy to all the brothers by explaining how the nations were turning around. <sup>4</sup> Coming forth into Jerusalem, they were received by the community, the representatives, and the elders and they recounted all that the Creator did among them. <sup>5</sup> Some from the group of the Pharisees, who were trusting Jesus, stood up, saying,

“It is necessary to circumcise the nations and to direct them to keep the Torah of Moses!”

<sup>6</sup> The representatives and the elders gathered to discern about this word. <sup>7</sup> After a large investigation, Peter stood up and said to them,

“Men! Brothers! You yourselves are aware that, beginning some days ago, the Creator chose for the nations to listen to the word of the Gospel through my mouth and to become trusting. <sup>8</sup> the Creator, who knows hearts, has testified to this by giving the Divine Breath to them as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> Purifying their hearts through trust, he judged no difference between us and them.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, why are you now testing the Creator by putting a bond-of-slavery upon the neck of the apprentices, which neither our fathers nor we ourselves have been strong enough to carry? <sup>11</sup> Indeed, we ourselves are trusting that we are rescued through the generosity of the Lord Jesus!”

<sup>12</sup> The whole multitude was silent and they began listening to Barnabas and Paul explaining all the signs and wonders the Creator did among the nations through them. <sup>13</sup> After Barnabas and Paul became silent, Jacob the brother of Jesus answered, saying,

“Men! Brothers! Listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon Peter explained how the Creator first began looking to take a people for his name from among the nations. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophet are agreeing with this, as it is written,

<sup>16</sup> ‘After these things I will turn back and rebuild the tent of David, which has fallen. I will rebuild her ruins and I will make her upright, <sup>17</sup> so the rest of humanity and all the nations, which I have called upon, will seek out the Lord. The Lord, who speaks, is doing these things <sup>18</sup> known throughout the age.’

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, I judge to not trouble those from among the nations, who are turning to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> but to write them a letter so they will keep away from the defilement of idols, prostitution, the suffocated thing, and blood. <sup>21</sup> For, from the beginning generations, Moses has been proclaimed throughout every city, being read in the synagogues during every Sabbath.”

<sup>22</sup> Then the representatives and elders, along with the whole community, decided to choose men, who were

guides among the brothers. So, with Paul and Barnabas, they sent Judah (called Barsabbas) and Silas to Syrian Antioch,<sup>23</sup> along with this writing from their own hands,

“From the representatives, elders, and brothers to those throughout Syrian Antioch, the province of Syria, and the province of Cilicia, the brothers among the nations:

Rejoice!<sup>24</sup> We heard that some from among us agitated you, upsetting your lives, with words, which we did not authorize.<sup>25</sup> It was communally decided by us to choose men, from among us, to send with our loved Barnabas and Paul,<sup>26</sup> persons who have given their lives on behalf of the name of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed.<sup>27</sup> Therefore, we sent Judah Barsabbas and Silas and, through their word, they are reporting these things.<sup>28</sup> For it was decided by the Divine Breath and by us to not put a large burden upon you besides these necessary ones:<sup>29</sup> to keep away from idol-sacrifices, blood, suffocated things, and prostitution. If you carefully keep yourselves away from these things you will do well. Farewell!”

<sup>30</sup> So after being released, they went down to Syrian Antioch. When a multitude had gathered, they gave them the letter<sup>31</sup> and, after reading it, the multitude rejoiced at the exhortation.<sup>32</sup> Judah Barsabbas and Silas, being prophets, were exhorting them and helped the brothers to stand firm through many words.<sup>33</sup> After some time, the brothers released them in harmony to go back to those who had sent them.<sup>35</sup> But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Syrian Antioch with many others, teaching and declaring the Gospel of the word of the Lord.<sup>36</sup> After some days Paul said to Barnabas,

“Let us turn back and look upon the brothers throughout all the cities in which we announced the word of the Lord, to see how they are holding up.”

<sup>37</sup> Barnabas was desiring to take John, who was called Mark, with them.<sup>38</sup> Paul was preferring not to take him with them, for he had stood away from them in the province of Pamphylia and had not come along with them for the work.<sup>39</sup> Such a disagreement happened that Barnabas and Paul separated from one another. Barnabas, taking John Mark with him, boated to the province of Cyprus.<sup>40</sup> Paul, claiming Silas, went out, after being given over to the generosity of the Lord by the brothers.