

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"Dispute Settled by the Truth in His Word"

Acts 15:13-21

[13] And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: [14] Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. [15] And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: [16] 'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; [17] 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.' [18] "Known to God from eternity are all His works. [19] Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, [20] but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. [21] For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

Discussion Questions:

1. When James spoke to the multitude, he quotes Amos 9:11-12. Discuss reasons why he may have done that. Did this establish a *biblical* foundation for the Gentiles?
2. Refer to how Peter (vv.15:7) and James (vv.15:13) address the *multitude*. Were they all believers?
3. If salvation is through grace alone, by faith alone and in Christ alone, what is the context of applying vv. 19-20?
 - a. How can vv. 19-20 be taken out of context?
 - b. Are there other teaching and practices that continue today that conflict with the new covenant that Christ has given us?
4. Think of the process of how a dispute occurred (Acts15:1-12) and how it is being addressed. Discuss this process.
 - a. How should a dispute be handled?
 - b. What lesson can be derived in settling disputes which you have learned from this chapter.