

Introduction- HERE IS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE OF THE CHURCH FROM JUDAISM * MAGNA CARTA*

1. Paul on the mission field faced a problem that had to be solved- a council was called-
2. This same problem has faced nations and churches through the centuries- Freedom under God.
3. June 1215 Barons won the Kings signature on the Magna Carta by the edge of the Sword
- 1776 our Declaration of Independance stated our demands for the same freedom under God.

I.- In 46 AD the Church met and declared itself free from the yoke of Judaism- Free under God.

THE PROBLEM* A QUARREL BETWEEN PAUL THE EVANGELIST, AND THE JUDAIZERS Acts 15:1-4

A. THE QUARREL* "YE MUST BE CIRCUMCISED"* Acts 15:1 "except ye be circumcised- ye cannot be save"

1. Paul preached Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 13:38-39) "All that believe are justified"
2. The Judaizers crept in to trouble the church- to make proselytes for thier bondage.
3. They made the method of Salvation by ritualistic works- note they were not called brethern.

B. THE POINT OF THE QUARREL WAS SALVATION BY WORKS - and OBEDIENCE TO A LEGALISTIC LAW* NO PERSON

1. They reasoned from Abraham (Gen 17:9-14) and Moses (Exo.4:26)- not preaching revelation!
2. The grass roots of this hericy grew into the Roman Catholic Church- and Today's liberals!
3. Rationalism mixes law and grace- always brings dark ages- and we are after it again!

C. PAUL AND BARNABAS WOULD NOT COMPROMISE- "no small dissension" 15:2

1. The heritics were name dropers from Jerusalem- so lets go to Jerusalem and see what Apostles sa
2. Paul went declaring what worked!-not laws, or theories- They had proof of redeemed souls! v.4
3. The Pharisees (v.5) joined with the Judaizers- A legalistic mind misses the personal leadership of the spirit of God, and often joins with the devils forces.

II.- THE SOLUTION - THE FIRST CHURCH COUNCIL OF MAJOR PROPORTION Acts 15:5-

THE COUNCIL HEARD BOTH SIDES -Probably not according to parlimentary procedure- or would be/

1. PETER spoke- (7-11) Salvation by faith v.9, and a warning-v.10 There had been much disputing

2. Paul and Barnabas witnessed to the miracles and wonders God had done among the Gentiles

3. After all had spoken, studied, now the decision is arrived at- note how THIS IS IMPORTANT

B. JAMES DECLARED THE RESULTS (V. 13,19,20) This is God's way of presenting a solution!

1. Not a vote, a democracy, committee- but the pastor's voice- ratified by the other man-

2. James quoted fact (14), Scripture (15) -Cf Amos 9:11-12, vrs (16,17) & God's Sovereignty (18)

3. As the head of the Church- he stated his sentence- (19,20) ending legalism & ritualism!

C. LETTERS WERE SENT OUT TO THE CHURCHES AND MESSENGERS SENT TO SETTLE WHAT JERUSALEM DECIDED!

1. They declared that the troublemakers were liars- (24) not sent out by the church.

2. Today we need to read thier epistles, and remember the lesson of history- /become slaves.

3. Unless we let the Truth make us free, and use our freedom to draw closer to the Truth we will

4. Unless a person comes to Jesus Christ by faith- he simply exchanges one slavemaster for other

III. THE DECISION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL* NO GREATER BURDEN (28) - abstain from offence JOHN 8:32-36

A. "ABSTAIN FROM IDOLS MEAT" (29) TRY NOT TO OFFEND THE GENTILES, 1 Cor 8:4-6, 1 Cor 10:25, 1 Cor 10:17

1. This ment hardship for some- all legal meat was idol killed -Sold in shambles OK

2. The world expects a Christian to be different- They know what they are- but what are YOU!

3. Does the Christian who eats loose his salvation - (I Cor 8:4) An Idol is Nothing

4. I Cor.8:3- "But if any man love God, the same is known of him." How much do you let God's LOVE GOVERN you?

B. "ABSTAIN FROM BLOOD AND THINGS STRANGLED"- TRY NOT TO OFFEND THE JEW

1. Jewish law held the Blood sacred- Gentiles did not- Kosher killed meat- bleed thoroughly!

2. The upper crust of Religious Sophistication expects certain graces from you- you can't

3. offend them, and expect to win them. -cerimonies don't make the man- but be civilized!

C. "AND FROM FORNICATION"- FROM OFFENDING GOD * GOD DEMANDS THIS PURITY - OR DEATH!

1. Fornication involves 3 levels- Spiritual = Idolatry, (Social- bad fellowship, Phy- Sex sins

2. Don't think the rest of the verse weakens the case - cf I Cor 6:9-10 Cf 5:9 & 6:11-

3. There were saved, - so not idolatry - but sexual sins they were warned of. + any sexual sin is a civil violation - they had real problems.

D. WE MUST NOT BE IN BONDAGE TO LAWS* OR TO LICENTIOUSNESS - cf Romans 14:1, 5, 7, 15-17, 21, 23

1. Accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour to save you from the penalty of all the laws have broke

Concl. 2. Walk in the Love of Christ to keep from being entangled again in the yoke of bondage of sin

Conclusion - WILL YOU ENJOY THE FREEDOM OF SALVATION* OR WILL YOU LOOSE IT FOREVER? The Law of Love Col 3:1-25

1. The law is a schoolmaster to bring you to Christ, fight it, and it will condemn you to Hell

2. Salvation gives you the freedom to live for Christ- miss it and you will have a hell on earth.

Inv. will you exercise the freedom to do the right thing - Christ will cut the chains of sin if you will -!

7-25