

Just tell them.

I. You must speak the Word. Tell them.

A. Clearly and Convincingly (1)

B. Boldly (2-3)

C. Continuously (5-7)

D. Good News (15)

E. Nonstop (19-21a)

II. Discipling requires speaking. Tell them again. (21-23)

A. Strengthening

B. Encouraging

C. Preparing

1. for kingdom conflict

2. church leadership

3. committed to the Lord

III. Praise requires speaking. (27-28) Tell what God has done.

A. Telling what God has done.

B. God opened a faith door.

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

"LAW AND FAITH"

Acts 15:1-35

Historical Timeline:

It was probably about 49AD when Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to address the controversy that had arisen between them and believers who had come out of the strict tradition of the Pharisees.

Passage Overview:

As Paul and Barnabas were teaching and preaching in their home church of Antioch, some Jewish believers came from Jerusalem and began to teach that Gentiles must convert to Judaism before becoming Christians. They wanted them to be circumcised and to obey the Mosaic Law with its many restrictions. Finally, the controversy was brought to the apostles and elders in the church at Jerusalem.

Peter reminded the assembly of how the Holy Spirit had fully accepted Cornelius and his household without requiring circumcision or conversion to Judaism before salvation through Jesus. They were saved simply through the grace of the Lord Jesus.

James, the half-brother of Jesus, then addressed those present. He reminded them that the Old Testament prophets had foretold an influx of the Gentiles to faith. The decision was made not to burden the new Gentile believers with Jewish regulations apart from four items. There is much debate about why these four items were retained as being worth observing.

All of these items were a part of the dominant Gentile religions. So this may have been a statement to prevent syncretism from diluting the faith. They also would have been a strong offense to the Jewish population in all of these centers, creating huge hurdles for many to come to faith and even for harmony among believers.

The clear message of the letter written by this Jerusalem Counsel was that salvation is through the grace of the Lord Jesus alone. Gentiles are called to put their faith in Jesus, not to become proselytes to Judaism first.

What burdens do we place on those who are seeking Jesus? Does salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus ground both our doctrine and our practice?

Reading for Next Week: Acts 15:1-35