

“The Church Is Encouraged & Strengthened In Unity!”

Acts 15:30-35

So, when They [Paul, Barnabas, Judas (Barsabbas), Silas (Silvanus), & Company] were sent off, they came to Antioch (On The Orontes); and when They had gathered the Multitude (All the Disciples / Believers in Antioch) together, They delivered the Letter (Official Church Theological Encyclical). When They (Paul, Barnabas, Judas, Silas & Company) had read It (Letter), They (All the Disciples / Believers in Antioch) Rejoiced over its Encouragement. Now Judas and Silas, Themselves being Prophets also, [Confirmed] ¹ Exhorted ² and Strengthened ³ the Brethren with many Words (Preaching ⁴ & Teaching ⁵). And after They (Paul, Barnabas, Judas, Silas, & Company) had stayed there for a time, They [Judas (Barsabbas) & Some of the Company] were sent back with Greetings from the Brethren (Church of Antioch) to the Apostles (Church in Jerusalem). However, it seemed good to Silas (Silvanus) to remain There (in Antioch). Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, Teaching and Preaching the Word of the Lord, with many Others (Some of the Company) also. **Acts 15:30-35 (NKJV)**

Q

**“What Did The Theological Envoy Of
Paul, Barnabas, Judas (Barsabbas), & Silas (Silvanus)
Do Immediately After Arriving In Antioch On The Orontes?”**

A

They Gathered All The Believers / Church In Antioch & Then Delivered The Official Church Letter / Encyclical From The Church of Jerusalem
So, when They [Paul, Barnabas, Judas (Barsabbas), Silas (Silvanus), & Company] were sent off, they came to Antioch (On The Orontes); and when They had gathered the Multitude (All the Disciples / Believers in Antioch) together, They delivered the Letter (Official Church Theological Encyclical). **Acts 15:30**

Q

**“What Did The Theological Envoy Of
Paul, Barnabas, Judas (Barsabbas), & Silas (Silvanus) Do Next?”**

A

They Read Aloud The Letter / Encyclical To The Entire Church
... When They (Paul, Barnabas, Judas, Silas & Company) had read It (Letter) ... **Acts 15:31a**

“The Apostles, Elders, and the Brethren, To the Brethren Who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since We (Whole Church Council) have heard that Some Who Went Out from Us (‘Judiazers’) have troubled You (Gentile Converts To Christianity) with words, unsettling Your Souls, saying, ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’; to Whom We gave no such commandment. It seemed good to Us (Whole Church Council), being Assembled with One Accord, to Send Chosen Men to You (The Gentile Church of Antioch On The Orontes) with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men Who have risked their lives for the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We (Whole Church Council) have therefore also Sent Judas and Silas, Who will also Report the Same Things by Word of Mouth. For it seemed Good to the Holy Spirit, and to Us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ⁽⁴⁾ ‘That You (Our Fellow Brothers In Christ) abstain from things offered to idols, ¹ from blood, ² from things strangled, ³ and from sexual immorality. ⁴ If You keep yourselves from these, You will do well. Farewell!”

Acts 15:23b-29

Q

***“What Was The Response Of The Gentile Church In Antioch
To These Official Church Theological Decisions In The Encyclical?”***

A

They Rejoiced & Accepted The New Doctrines Of The Faith With Great Encouragement
... **They (All the Disciples / Believers in Antioch) Rejoiced** over its **Encouragement** ... **Acts 15:31b**

Q

“What Was The Mission For Which Judas (Barsabbas) & Silas (Silvanus) Had Been Sent?”

A

Confirmation,¹ **Exhortation**,² **Strengthening**,³ **Preaching**,⁴ & **Teaching**⁵ Of The Believers
... **“We (Whole Church Council) have therefore also Sent Judas and Silas, Who will also
[Confirm¹] Report the Same Things by Word of Mouth¹ ... Now Judas and Silas, Themselves
being Prophets also, Exhorted² and Strengthened³ the Brethren with many Words (Preaching⁴
& Teaching⁵).”** **Acts 15:27 & 32**

Q

***“What Did The Theological Envoy Of
Paul, Barnabas, Judas (Barsabbas), & Silas (Silvanus) Do Next?”***

A

They Remained There With The Believers For A Time Of Confirmation, Exhortation,
Fasting, Praying, Strengthening, Preaching, Teaching, & Ordination
... And after **They (Paul, Barnabas, Judas, Silas, & Company)** had stayed there for a time ...
Acts 15:33a

Q

***“What Did The Theological Envoy Of
Paul, Barnabas, Judas (Barsabbas), & Silas (Silvanus) Do Next?”***

A

They Split Up For Different New Missions Assigned By The Holy Spirit & The Church

A1

Judas Barsabbas' New Mission Of Reporting Back To The Church Council In Jerusalem
... **They [Judas (Barsabbas) & Some of the Company]** were sent back with **Greetings**
from the **Brethren (Church of Antioch)** to the **Apostles (Church in Jerusalem)** ... **Acts 15:33b**

A2

Silas'(Silvanus') New Mission Of Staying On In The Church Of Antioch On The Orontes
... However, it seemed good to **Silas (Silvanus)** to remain **There (in Antioch)** ... **Acts 15:34**

A3

Paul & Barnabas' New Mission Of Staying On In The Church Of Antioch On The Orontes
... **Paul and Barnabas** also remained in **Antioch, Teaching** and **Preaching** the **Word of the Lord,**
with many **Others (Some of the Company)** also. **Acts 15:35**

Q

***“What Do We Do With The Message We Have Heard Today
As Disciples / Believers In Jesus Christ, Our Lord?”***

A1

***“We Must Continue To Gather Together In Unity With All The Believers
Called By Our Lord To This Time & Place As His Holy People, The CrossWay Church!”***

A2

***“We Must All Continue To Gather Together To
Confirm, Exhort, Fast, Pray, Strengthen, Preach, Teach, & Ordain One Another
As We Seek The Lord's Vision & Will For Our Community & The World!”***

Q

“Where Have We As A Church Done Well So Far In Fulfilling God’s Divine Mission For Us?”

A

We Have Gathered In Increasing **Unity Of Spirit** ¹
We Have **Confirmed** ², **Strengthened** ³, **Preached** ⁴, & **Ordained** ⁵ One Another

Q

“Where Do We As A Church Need To Improve In Fulfilling God’s Divine Mission For Us?”

A1

We Need To Come Together More Often For Prayer & Fasting
Both Individually & Corporately Together On A Weekly Basis

A2

We Need To Come Together More Often For
Formal Bible Study & Discipleship Teaching & Training
Both Individually & Corporately Together On A Weekly Basis

Q

*“What Will Happen If We Grow In These Two Areas Of
1) Fasting / Prayer & 2) Study / Discipleship?”*

A

We Will Draw Closer To God The Holy Spirit Personally
& We Will Catch A Vision For His Will For His Church
“Community Outreach (Salvation Through Service)”

*“Let Us Rededicate Ourselves To Coming Together Weekly In The Future,
As Paul Encourages Us In His Writing To The Church!”*

Paul Instructs Us Today Here At CrossWay Church on the Beaverbrook, *“Therefore, Brethren (Fellow Believers / Disciples), having Boldness to Enter the Holy of Holies by the Blood of Jesus, by a New and Living Way (Eternal Life in the Indwelling Holy Spirit) which He Consecrated for Us, through the Veil, that is, His Flesh, and having a High Priest over the House of God (Church). Let Us Draw Near with a True Heart in Full Assurance of Faith, having Our Hearts Sprinkled from an Evil Conscience and Our Bodies Washed with Pure Water. Let Us Hold Fast the Confession of Our Hope Without Wavering, for He Who Promised Is Faithful. And Let Us Consider One Another in order to Stir Up Love and Good Works, Not Forsaking the Assembling of Ourselves Together, as is the Manner of Some, but Exhorting One Another, and So Much the More as You See the Day Approaching (of His Second Coming).”* Hebrews 10:19-25

*“This Week, I Encourage All Of Us To Do A Self-Examination
Of Our Standing Before Our Great High Priest Who Is Making Intercession For Us,
And To Listen Carefully For His Voice, And Not Our Own,
To See More Clearly His Vision, & To Hear Deeply His Will
For Our Lives Individually & Together As His People, The Church?”*

*“I Also Exhort You As Your Local Shepherd
To Answer God In A New Commitment & Covenant Promise
To Act On His Divine Vision & Will He Shares With You
As His Obedient Believers & Disciples
For Your Soul’s Good & His Church’s Growth!”*