

Lesson X.

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

June 8, 1902

Acts 15: 22-33—Memory Verses, 30-32.

Golden Text—Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.—Gal. 5: 1.



22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to An'tioch with Paul and Bar'nabas: *namely*, Ju'das surnamed Bar'sabas, and Si'las, chief men among the brethren.

23 And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner: The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gen'tiles in An'tioch and Syr'ia and Ci-lici'a:

24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Bar'nabas and Paul,

26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Je'sus Christ.

27 We have sent therefore Ju'das and Si'las, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

30 So when they were dismissed they came to An'tioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

31 Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

32 And Ju'das and Si'las, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words and confirmed *them*.

33 And after they had tarried *there* a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Paul and Barnabas had finished their first missionary journey, they came back to Antioch in Syria, from which place they had set out.

Some members of the church in Judæa, where the Christians at Antioch had sent their present at the time of famine, came down to see them. These men taught that believing in Jesus was not enough to save a man; he must keep a certain Jewish law called circumcision as well. Now these men were making a mistake, and Paul and Barnabas told them so, but they still went on stirring up trouble in the church.

At last, to settle the matter, the Christians at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to ask the apostles and elders about it.

Then the whole church being gathered together in Jerusalem, with the apostles and elders, said, "We will send two of our wisest teachers to Antioch to try and undo this mischief." So they chose Judas and Silas to go back to Syria with Paul and Barnabas. Before they started they gave them a letter addressed to the Christians at Antioch, which read like this:

"Jerusalem,

"A.D. 52.

"Dear Christian Brothers:—

"We the apostles and elders of the church, send you our best wishes. We are sorry that some who had no permission from us have troubled your minds with useless questions. We were very glad to see your two brave missionaries, Paul and Barnabas, and