

The Most Important Question

Introduction: The newly birthed local church is now going to face its biggest
 yet—how is a Gentile saved?

- I. The _____ (Acts 15:1-12)
 - A. There were people coming into the church teaching that for Gentiles to be _____ they had to believe in Christ and be circumcised.
 - B. To add anything to the work of Christ _____ the gospel (Gal. 2).
 - C. The argument got so heated that Paul and Barnabas decided to take it to _____ the "headquarters" of the church at that time.
 - D. This church council was held in _____ A.D.—Cornelius was saved ten years prior to this time.
 - E. There were some saved Pharisees that came into the church with spiritual _____
 - F. Peter knew from experience that the Gentiles could be saved by _____ alone.
 - G. The death of Christ tore down the wall of _____ between Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 2:11-19).
- II. Adding anything to the gospel places people in _____ (Gal. 2:4; 4:9; 5:1).
 - I. Paul and Barnabas _____ the message of Peter.
- II. The _____ (Acts 15:13-29)
 - A. James, the half brother of Christ and author of the NT book, was the _____ of the Jerusalem church.
 - B. James taught how the OT prophets foretold of Gentile _____.
 - C. The church decided to reject the false teachings and send letters to the churches that were _____.
 - D. The only regulations placed upon believers are _____ ones.
- III. The _____ (Acts 15:30-35)
 - A. The letter from Jerusalem brought great _____ to the local churches.
 - B. Again, Paul and Barnabas wanted to check up on the churches they _____ --they majored on discipleship.
 - C. Barnabas wanted to give his cousin a _____ chance in the ministry.
 - D. Paul _____ and parted ways with Barnabas.
 - E. Even preachers can strongly _____ about certain issues.
 - F. God's _____ continued and more places were being reached with the gospel.
 - G. Barnabas, the great encourager, helped _____ Mark (2 Tim. 4:11).

Conclusion: "What did Christ do for you on the cross? Is the work of Christ adequate to save you? Do you need to go through some ritual or something else in order to be saved? Must you go through the Law? These are the questions they were asking" (McGee).