**THEME: New Beginnings**

Acts 15:23-41

LEGALISM

- Legalism leads to confusion

- Legalism builds a wall between us and God

**Vs.23**

Confusion leads to division. Unity restores clarity.

“We are for you!”

Many of our deepest fears are rooted in a lack of security regarding acceptance.

Romans 14:13

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

The affect of the Apostle’s letter:

- Restore clarity

- Establish unity

- Bring edification

- Remind of grace

- Result in rest

**Vs.24**

They went out but were not “sent” out.

“Troubled”

agitate, stir up, disquiet

“Subverting”

plundering, dismantling, to pack up baggage in order to carry it away to another place, to move one's furniture

The apostles did not waste time with pleasantries when a soul's rest was at stake.

Many perceive God’s stamp of approval upon whatever the church says “ok” to.

The apostles' opinion did not carry more truth, just more weight due to the responsibility their position held.

The question of authority is a question of source, because all authority must be derived from an original source.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Ephesians 1:20-23

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**Vs.25**

A healthy discussion will end in unity. Unhealthy discussion ends in division. One is concerned with doing what’s right the other is only concerned in “being” right.

**Vs.26**

“Hazard”

to give up, to give over

Th ultimate commendation is to have our names linked with the name of Jesus.

Nobody hazards their life for the law.

**Vs.27**

The false word must be replaced with the true word.

The false word will agitate, the true word will settle.

**Vs.28**

Ephesians 5:9-10

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

“Necessary”

things that must be

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**Vs.29**

Never say more than what needs to be said.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Proverbs 10:19-21

19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise. 20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth. 21 The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

**Vs.31**

The church in Antioch valued the written word of truth. They appreciated the testimony of those who came from Jersualem, but they needed something more than just hearsay.

Acts 9:31

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

**Vs.32**

“Prophet”

one who speaks forth divine revelation, a spokesman for God

Matthew 24:24-26

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

“Exhorted”

call to ones side, comfort

Romans 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

“Confirmed”

establish, render more firm

Colossians 2:6-7

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

A “modern day prophet” is not one who has secret knolwedge or secret messages from Jesus. A modern day prophet should look just like an old fashioned prophet–one who speaks forth the truth of God’s Word under the annointing and calling of the Holy Spirit. A “prophecy” should result in the hearer being further comforted and established in the truth.

**Vs.33**

“Tarried”

bring forth, produce, construct, form

Acts 15:3, 4,12, 17, 33

**Vs.34**

There is great freedom of choice in the Spirit.

**Vs.35**

“Teaching”

didactic or systematic approach

(a lecture based style with the teacher having clearly defined goals for the students)

**Vs.36**

Second Missionary Journey

**Vs.37-38**

Acts 13:13

Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing (seperated) from them returned (turned back) to Jerusalem.

“John”

…Jehovah is a gracious giver

“Mark”

…a defense

“Thought”

…judge worthy

“Take”

…companion

“Departed”

…stand off, aloof

“Went”

…assemble

“Work”

…labor

**Vs.39**

“Contention”

provoke, irritation

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Revelation 6:14

And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

**Vs.40**

“Silas”

woody

Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The capitol of Cilicia was Paul’s home town of Tarsus.

Separation while not always pleasant, is not always sinful. Unity can be maintained through mutual separation. The key is to see God’s hand is able to still work through differences when we are not able to work out those differences.

Romans 12:18-21

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.