

Wednesday Bible Study

01/31/2024

“The Split”

Acts 15:36-41

1. **Read Scripture verses** (Non-bolded Scriptures are for you to read and study on your own).
2. Cast of characters and back story...

Paul: (The Apostle Paul from Tarsus near Cilisia)

Barnabas: (A Jewish Levite convert from Cyprus; cousin of John Mark [Col. 4:10])

John Mark (Mark): (Writer of the Gospel of Mark; disciple of Jesus; cousin of Barnabas; Jewish convert of the Apostle Peter [1 Peter 5:13]; possibly the young man mentioned at the arrest of Jesus [Mark 14:51-52]; helper of Paul and Barnabas on Paul’s 1st missionary journey, from which, he left early; it was to his house in Jerusalem that Peter went after God freed him from jail where Mark’s mother hosted a house church [Acts 12:11-12])

Silas (Silvanus): (Leader and Teacher in the Jerusalem church Acts 15:22); conveyor of the Jerusalem Council’s directions to the churches [Acts 15:22-27]; partnered with Paul on his 2nd missionary journey [Acts 15:40-41]; taught and retaught in many of the churches Paul planted [Acts 15:32].

3. What’s up with this split between Paul and Barnabas?

Good, God-fearing Christians can disagree sharply on things. We are not talking about “foundational things” (salvation; deity of Christ; etc.).

John Mark leaving the 1st missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas came most of the way through this journey; we do not know why he left, but it happened right after a fairly fruitless time in Cyprus where they encountered demonic opposition and only 1 conversion is mentioned [Acts 13:4-12]; we do know that Paul viewed this as a sign of Mark not being dependable, though this is likely not the case, since the missionary journey that Barnabas and Mark took was back to Cyprus while Paul and Silas went toward where Paul lived.

What Scripture are we to heed regarding disagreements? [**Eph. 4:1-3 & 31-32; James 1:19-20**]

4. Paul writing 13 books of the New Testament while Mark only wrote 1 and Barnabas 0, could cause people to think that Paul was correct in his assessment of Mark. However, God is the Author of all Scripture and this applies to Paul’s writings as well. (**2 Tim. 3:16**)
5. Later in Paul’s life, he regarded Mark as a “valuable fellow worker in the faith”. (**Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; Phil. 1:23**)

6. Barnabas was “led astray” by Peter’s separating himself from fellowshiping with gentile believers when Judaizers sent from James, the Lord’s half-brother and leader of the Jerusalem church, came to visit. (These people felt that Gentiles needed to be circumcised and follow other Jewish customs to be “true” followers of Christ.) The phrase “led astray” does NOT mean he lost his salvation, yet Paul recognized the situation for what it was... adding human works to the finished work of Christ! Since this was heretical, it required the harsh rebuke that Peter and the Judiazers received. **(Gal. 2:11-14) (Gal. 3:23-29)**

7. We are to “grow up in Christ” **(Eph. 4:13-16 & 2 Peter 1:5-8)** and love one another **(Rom. 12:10 & 1 Peter 4:8)**

8. Notice the depth and intricacy of Scripture... This is the level of relationship that God wants to have with YOU! That is why we must...

Study to show ourselves approved. **(2 Tim. 2:15)**

Meditate on the Word day and night. **(Joshua 1:8-9)**

Have wisdom, insight, knowledge. **(Proverbs 9:10; Jer. 9:23-34; Hosea 6:6)**

Have the mind of Christ. **(1 Cor. 2:12-14)**

