

October 1, 2023
Acts 15:22-41
“Constant Wind, Constant Will”

PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATION

Witnesses were sent by the church to confirm the authenticity of the letter. No one could claim there were poor or one-sided communications. Notice that the Holy Spirit is the One who made the decision along with the church. Hard to argue with that!

V 34 is omitted by several important Greek manuscripts, perhaps a scribe added this later to explain the choice of Silas. V 34, is not even found in the Latin Vulgate that was completed around A.D. 400, further proof of an even later date for the addition.

(1)By this decision the gospel was freed from any necessary entanglement with Judaism and yet both Jew and Gentile could continue together in Christian activity. They were enabled to progress side by side without conflict. (2)With this decision some of the Jews became even more embittered toward Paul, and yet, some such as John Mark seem to have become more reconciled to him. (3)The decision had the effect of permanently antagonizing many Jews. After this the Christian mission in and around Jerusalem faced rough times, see **Romans 11:28**. Coupled with this decision & the zealots within the nation during the next two decades, the disunity proved fatal to the life and ministry of the Jerusalem church. Gleaned from *Richard N. Longenecker*

Paul made a wise choice in Silas: he could attest to the Jerusalem Council’s decision, he was a Roman citizen, **Acts 16:37**, he was a prophet, **Acts 15:32**, he was well known and commended by the brothers to the grace of God, he was skilled in Greek and, served as an amanuensis, **I Peter 5:12**, (sometimes called Silvanus). They set out to strengthen the churches previously started in accordance with **Matthew 28:19-20**.

Paul is later reconciled to Mark, see **Colossians 4:10**; **Philemon 24**; and **II Timothy 4:11**.

Application:

“Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.” **II Timothy 2:10-13**, (NKJV) No matter what the cost, it is worth it all to serve our Lord.

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” **Galatians 6:9**, (NLT)