



# Joy & Consolation By The Word

**“... when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: 31 Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation” (Acts 15:30-31).**

Bulletin VCAT48

10 July 2024

“So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: 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 Judas and Silas, 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. 34 Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still. 35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. 36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. 37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. 38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. 39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; 40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God. 41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.” (Acts 15:30-41).

The new believers were eagerly awaiting report from the delegation to Jerusalem not knowing what type of message it would be. The arrival epistle brought rejoicing and consolation (vs 30) that ultimately resulted in “confirming the churches” (vs 41). We learn these:

- 1) When there is good news, we must not delay in relaying it. Once the assembly at Jerusalem was dismissed, the apostles did not waste time to return to Antioch, gather the brethren and relay it, bringing to them rejoicing and consolation (vs 30,31).
- 2) This was followed by a period of exhortation with “many words” for a while before being letting the additional delegation from Jerusalem to depart (vs 32, 33).
- 3) Meanwhile, Silas, Paul and Barnabas “... continued teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also” (vs 34,35).

**“... Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do” (Acts 15:30-31).**

Success is not a one-off dose of good news, there must be continuation in the impartation of the word.

- 4) When their mission at Antioch was accomplished, Paul proposed to Barnabas “Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do” (vs 36). The ministry of visitation is vital for nourishing and growing the believers.
- 5) A contention arose on whether Mark, who departed from them from Pamphylia (vs 38) should be part of the mission.
- 6) Unable to reach agreement, Barnabas decided to go with Mark, while Paul went with Silas, “being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God” (vs 40).
- 7) Paul and Silas went through Syria and Cilicia confirming the churches but the rest of the story in Acts is silent about the mission of Barnabas and Mark. Be careful between winning an argument and receiving divine commendation. The two are not the same. Contention and division are not part of the fruit of the Spirit. There is power and productivity in unity. Service with united hearts produce wonderful results to the glory of God that that based on competition and rivalry. God commands in Philippians 2:1-2 “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind”. Let’s join Paul in his prayer “Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus” (Romans 15:5).