

Acts 15:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

Analysis

The Council's decision formula 'it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us' shows remarkable balance between divine guidance and human discernment. The directive to lay 'no greater burden' on Gentiles than necessary minimal requirements (food laws, sexual purity) protected unity while respecting Jewish sensibilities. This decision liberated Gentile Christianity from Jewish ceremonial law.

Historical Context

The Jerusalem Council's decree (AD 49-50) resolved the first major theological crisis, preventing Christianity from becoming Jewish sect. The four requirements (Acts 15:29) addressed practical concerns for Jewish-Gentile fellowship without demanding full conversion to Judaism.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do churches discern the balance between Spirit guidance and human wisdom in decision-making?
2. What principles from this Council apply to navigating cultural differences in the church today?

Interlinear Text

ἔδοξεν	γὰρ	τῷ	ἁγίῳ	πνεύματι	καὶ	ἡμῖν	μηδὲν
it seemed good	For	G3588	to the Holy	Ghost	and	to us	no
G41380	G1063		G40	G4151	G2532	G2254	G3367
πλέον	ἐπιτίθεσθαι	ὑμῖν	βάρος	πλὴν	τῶν	ἐπάναγκες	
greater	to lay upon	you	burden	than	G3588	necessary things	
G4119	G2007	G5213	G922	G4133		G1876	
τούτων							
these							
G5130							

Additional Cross-References

John 16:13 (Spirit): Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Matthew 11:30 (Parallel theme): For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Revelation 2:24 (Parallel theme): But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

Acts 5:32 (Holy): And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 15:8 (Holy): And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

Acts 15:19 (Parallel theme): Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

1 Corinthians 14:37 (Spirit): If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:40 (Spirit): But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

1 Peter 1:12 (Holy): Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

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