

SCCC – DON'T TROUBLE MY SOUL

S - Scriptures

“We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.” Acts 15: 24

C – Consideration

The words of the apostle James showed the struggles that a large group of Christians was facing in their assembly. These gentile believers were taught by Paul and Barnabas for a year; they had become very active in missions, with strong leadership, and supported by teachers, prophets, and apostles. These Christians faithfully fulfilled the Lord's command to love one another and to evangelize the world. But, a group of Pharisees that had turned to the faith, yet they didn't submit to the apostolic doctrine of Christianity went down to Antioch and stole the peace and the faith of these disciples. The harmony among the church had turned into fear and confusion.

C – Commitment

How many times I have been in a similar situation. I remember when I became a Christian; attending a church with different denominational background among the members. From time to time, someone would come to me and tell me what I had to do to not lose my salvation. Adding to that in my former religion they taught me the impossibility of assurance of salvation. Frequently, my soul was disturbed and troubled like the gentile Christians of Antioch. In their case, the apostle Peter speaking by the Holy Spirit, cut from the root the heretical teachings, stating: “Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.” What a relief to the disciples! How could they bear the burden of the Law, asked Peter to the Pharisees? And, how can we? And, he concluded the statement that God had saved Christians entirely by grace, through faith – Jesus paid the price in full on the cross: “It is finished! I will always keep this treasure in my heart.

C – Call

My God, we were warned by Jesus and by the Holy Spirit, that many false prophets, false Christs would appear in the last days, deceiving multitudes. I pray for the many “Peters, James', Pauls, and Barnabas” of our days to help me and my brothers and sisters in the global church in their struggles against heretical teachings. I pray for a revival among believers, so we would follow the example of the church of Antioch: being faithful disciples, loving one another, and proclaiming the true gospel to the world. In Christ Jesus, I pray. Amen.