

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
Acts of The Apostles – Chapter 11
Todd E. Hammond, Senior Pastor
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Key Phrase: Inclusion of the Gentiles into the Church.

Acts 10:34-36 (KJV) Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

The beginning of Acts 11 finds Peter after the conversion of Cornelius and the Gentiles justifying Himself and offering proof that God wanted Gentiles included in the eternal salvation plan through Jesus Christ.

Acts 11:17-18 (KJV) Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Jesus is the fulfilled promise of God to save the entire world.

I. The assignment to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Acts 11:19 (KJV) Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

A. The originally scattered Jews from Jerusalem still only preached to the Jews.

Acts 11:20-21 (KJV) And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

B. Some believers who were affiliated with Gentiles, preached unto them resulting in many more people being saved.

1) Antioch was the Capital of Syria.

2) Antioch presented to the church an excellent opportunity and harvest field for evangelism.

3) Antioch might be considered the main hub for reaching the Gentile world for Christ.

a) First, the church's witness made a great impact on the city so that "many people were added to the Lord"

Acts 11:21-24 (KJV) And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. 23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

b) Second, the growth of the church meant that Barnabas needed **help**;

Acts 9:30 (KJV) Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

Acts 11:25-26 (KJV) Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

C. Antioch is where the name **Christian** was first applied to the disciples of Jesus Christ. The Latin suffix **ian** means "*belonging to the party of.*"

The name Christian is only found three times in the entire New Testament: (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; and 1 Peter 4:16).

D. Gentiles reach back to send **aid** Jewish Christians in Judea during the **famine**.

Acts 11:27-30 (KJV) And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

II. Barnabus the giver, defender, servant, witness, evangelist, and encourager.

Acts 4:36-37 (KJV) And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 9:26-27 (KJV) And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

Acts 11:23-26 (KJV) Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: