

## THE ADVANCE OF THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES Pt. 2 (Acts 11)

### I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1-7)

### II. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, & SYRIA. (8-12)

#### A. The WITNESS of PHILIP to the SAMARITANS & an ETHIOPIAN. (8)

#### B. The SALVATION & WITNESS of SAUL to the SYRIANS. (9:1-31)

#### C. The WITNESS of PETER & the ANTIOCH CHRISTIANS to JEWS & GENTILES. (9:32-12:25)

##### 1. The ENTRANCE of the GENTILES into the BODY of CHRIST / the CHURCH. (10)

##### 2. The ESTABLISHMENT of the GENTILES into the CHURCH. (11:1-18)

In this chapter we not only see the **initial opposition from certain Jewish believers to allow Gentiles into the Church without circumcision, dietary laws, etc.** but also, we observe **the beginnings of shifting the center for world evangelism & church planting from Jerusalem to Antioch** which will become the base for Paul's missionary journeys.

- a. **The REPORT (11:1):** Now the \_\_\_\_\_ who were in Judea heard that the \_\_\_\_\_ had also \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God (the Gospel).
- b. **The REACTION (11:2):** And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of \_\_\_\_\_ with him,
- c. **The REASON (11:3):** saying, "You went \_\_\_\_\_ uncircumcised men and \_\_\_\_\_ with them!"
- d. **The REVIEW by PETER of How GOD Directed the Entire Event & Gave the HOLY SPIRIT to the GENTILES who BELIEVED (11:4-17):** But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying:
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Father gave me a great sheet vision ... (11:5-6)
  - 2) God \_\_\_\_\_ me to "kill and eat." (11:7)
  - 3) God \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ me. (1:8-9) "What God has \_\_\_\_\_ you must not call \_\_\_\_\_."
  - 4) God reinforced this truth \_\_\_\_\_ times so that Peter would transition from \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the OT dietary laws, as well as Gentile \_\_\_\_\_ in the Church. (11:10-11)
  - 5) The Holy Spirit "told me to \_\_\_\_\_ with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these \_\_\_\_\_ brethren accompanied me {as witnesses}, and we \_\_\_\_\_ the man's house. (Act 11:12)
  - 6) God wanted Gentiles to be \_\_\_\_\_ and desired to use Peter to give them the Gospel. (11:13-14)
  - 7) God used my preaching of the Gospel, and the \_\_\_\_\_ fell upon them, as upon \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ - i.e. Pentecost. (11:15)
  - 8) Jesus Christ had predicted the \_\_\_\_\_ (11:16; 1:4-5), which Peter then remembered in light of the similarity to this event which forms the Church (1 Cor. 12:13).

Peter's conclusion (11:17): If therefore \_\_\_\_\_ gave them {the Gentiles} the \_\_\_\_\_ {the Holy Spirit} as He gave us when we \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord Jesus Christ, WHO was I that I could withstand God?"

e. The RESPONSES by the JEWISH CHRISTIANS at Jerusalem to these GENTILE CONVERSIONS without CIRCUMCISION & DIETARY LAWS, etc. (11:18) When they heard these things ...

- 1) They became \_\_\_\_\_. What more could they say?
  - 2) They \_\_\_\_\_. And rightly so!
  - 3) They said: "'Then \_\_\_\_\_ has also \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_."
- What do we learn again about the relationship of believing and repentance? That \_\_\_\_\_ in the act of \_\_\_\_\_ or trust is \_\_\_\_\_ (a change of mind) regarding the \_\_\_\_\_ of one's faith: God or Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38, 44; 10:43-44; 11:14-18; 17:30-34; 20:21)

### 3. The EXPANSION of the GENTILES into the CHURCH in ANTIOCH. (11:19-30)

a. The ESTABLISHMENT of the Church at ANTIOCH (11:19-21) Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen (8:4) \_\_\_\_\_ as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, \_\_\_\_\_. (11:19) What is the positive result of persecution but what was myopic in all this?

But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. (11:20) What can we learn from this?

What do we know about Antioch of Syria?

- 1) Founding: 300 BC / "free city"
- 2) Locationally: strategic trade routes/ on Orontes River/15 miles inland from Medit.
- 3) Aesthetically: beautiful & cultured
- 4) Population: 500,000 plus /3rd largest city in Roman Empire /Hellenized/ mixed
- 5) Religiously: idolatrous amalgamation – Greck gods - Daphne & Apollos ...
- 6) Morally: immorality & corruption
- 7) Jewish community: 25,000-50,000
- 8) Great place to reach souls w the Gospel

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord was with them, and a \_\_\_\_\_ {of these Hellenists} \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_. (11:21) Observe the relationship of "believed" and "turned". What is significant about this regarding the future strategic ministry of the Church at Antioch?

- 1) This church was sovereignly located in a strategically significant cosmopolitan city known for its immoral indulgence.
- 2) This church was birthed by some unknown believers in Christ who preached the Gospel of grace. (11:19-21)
- 3) This church was nurtured through the encouragement of Barnabas. (Acts 11:22-24)
- 4) This church was matured through the grace-oriented Bible teaching of Saul, i.e. Paul. (Acts 11:25-26)
- 5) This church was authenticated by their agape love and famine relief to the believers of Judea. (Acts 11:27-30)
- 6) This church was led by a group of godly men with very diverse backgrounds. (Acts 13:1)
- 7) This church was the base of operations for several missionary journeys. (Acts 13:2-5)

**b. The ENDORSEMENT of the ANTIOCH CHURCH by the JERUSALEM CHURCH. (11:22-24)**

Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and \_\_\_\_\_ sent out \_\_\_\_\_ to go as far as Antioch. (11:22) What is different about this?

What do we know about Barnabas?

1. Real name Joses / Joseph (4:36) / early convert to Christ
2. Nick named - "Barnabas" - son of encouragement (4:36)
3. A Levite {Jewish} from Cyprus & fluent in Greek
4. Gave generous gift (Acts 4)
5. Name mentioned 29x in NT / 24 x in Acts
6. Used to bring Saul / Paul to the apostles (9:27)
7. Sent by apostles to Antioch & recruits Paul to join him (11:22-25)
8. Designated to carry financial gift from Antioch church to Judean brethren due to Famine (11:30)
9. Accompanied Paul on 1st missionary journey (Acts 13 & 14)
10. Defended the Gospel of grace & gave testimony at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:2,12)

When he came and had seen the \_\_\_\_\_, he was \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ them all that with purpose of heart they should \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord. (11:23-24) What can we learn from this about encouraging others and being used by the Lord for ministry?

What were the results?

**c. The EXPANSION of the CHURCH at ANTIOCH. (11:25-26)** Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek

\_\_\_\_\_ {Paul}. 26 And when he had found him, he brought him to \_\_\_\_\_. So it was that for a whole \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ with the church and \_\_\_\_\_ a great \_\_\_\_\_ people. And the \_\_\_\_\_ were first called \_\_\_\_\_ in Antioch. What can we learn from this?

**d. The EXPRESSION of AGAPE LOVE & UNITY by the CHURCH at ANTIOCH. (11:27-30)** And in

these days \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph.2:20) came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great \_\_\_\_\_ throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, \_\_\_\_\_, determined to \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ dwelling in \_\_\_\_\_. 30 This they also \_\_\_\_\_, and sent it to the \_\_\_\_\_ by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. Why is this incredible and amazing? What can you learn from this?

• Some closing thoughts & challenges:

- 1) Jesus said \_\_\_\_\_ - so don't compete but cooperate with Him.
- 2) When giving a testimony, make sure to be accurate & emphasize what \_\_\_\_\_ has done, not you.
- 3) Remember that \_\_\_\_\_, and the latter involves orienting to God's plan & grace which takes time, truth, teachers, a teachable spirit, and trust.
- 4) God is willing to use the \_\_\_\_\_ they are willing to be used and walk by faith empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- 5) The \_\_\_\_\_ for corporate worship & growth is very important, especially the teaching of the WOG.
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.