
The Acts of the Apostles I
The Open Door to the Gentiles
Acts 11:1-30

- I. PETER'S REPORT TO THE JEWS AT JERUSALEM (Acts 11:1-18)
 - A. Peter's Conduct Brought into Question (Acts 11:1-3)
 - i. The news concerning the Jews (Acts 11:1)
 - ii. The contention of the circumcision (Acts 11:2-3; Acts 10:28; Ephesians 2:11-12; Philippians 3:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 2:16)
 - B. Peter's Conduct Explained (Acts 11:2-17)
 - i. His vision of the unclean beasts (Acts 11:4-10)
 - ii. The men from Caesarea (Acts 11:11-12)
 - iii. The salvation of the Gentiles (Acts 11:13-17; Acts 16:30-34)
 - C. Peter's Conduct Accepted (Acts 11:18)
 - i. They held their peace
 - ii. They glorified God (Acts 10:45; see Acts 15:11)
- II. THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH (Acts 11:19-30)
 - A. The Work of the Scattered Disciples (Acts 11:19-21)
 - i. To the Jews (Acts 11:19)
 - ii. To the Gentiles (Acts 11:20; Romans 1:19)
 - iii. By the hand of God (Acts 11:21)
 - B. The Work of Barnabas (Acts 11:22-24)
 - i. His mission to Antioch (Acts 11:22) – He had a specific mission
 - ii. His ministry in Antioch (Acts 11:23-24) – He had a special message
 - iii. His qualifications were scriptural (Acts 11:24; Acts 6:5; 1 Timothy 3:1-13)
 - 1. A good man
 - 2. Full of the Holy Ghost
 - 3. Full of faith

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- C. The Work of Barnabas and Saul (Acts 11:25-26)
- i. Found in Tarsus (Acts 11:25; Acts 9:30)
 - ii. Taught in Antioch (Acts 11:26)
 - iii. Disciples first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26b)
 1. What are the marks of a true Christian?
 2. “Will the Real Christian Please Stand Up?” – Sermon by Pastor David F. Reagan – January 1992
 - a. Intro. Would there be enough evidence to convict most of being a Christian?
 - b. One With Conscience – Not Carnality (Hebrews 5:12-14)
Note: *Conscience: an inner sensitivity to right and wrong*
 - i. A Defiled Conscience (1 Tim. 4:1-2; Titus 1:15-16)
 - ii. A Pure Conscience (Acts 24:16; 1 Tim. 1:19)
 - c. One With Character – Not Convenience (2 Peter 1:1-8)
Note: *Character [an engraving instrument] – the condition of the inner man*
 - i. The Result of Redemption (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - ii. The Result of Renewal (Eph. 4:22-24; Rom. 12:1-2)
 - d. One with Conviction – Not Compromise (1 Tim. 4:15-16)
Note: *Conviction: strong beliefs*
 - i. Doctrinal Conviction (Ephesians 4:12-15)
 - ii. Personal Conviction (Eph. 6:10-13; 2 Tim. 2:1-5)
 - e. Conc. The greatest challenge in the world – greater than the Olympics, marathons, career ladders, social status, fame, self-reliance, etc. The challenge of being a Christian that counts something for Christ! (Jeremiah 5:1; Ezekiel 22:30)
- D. The Founding of the Great Missionary Work at Antioch (Acts 11:25-26)
- i. Began by those that had faced persecution (Acts 11:19, 20-21)
 - ii. The founding (Acts 11:21)
 - iii. Becomes a great Bible teaching center (Acts 11:25, 26)
 1. Two teachers – Barnabas and Saul (Paul) (2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:5-9)
 2. A teachable audience – a church that could be taught (1 whole yr.)
 3. Received a new name (Acts 11:26)
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iv. Historical Facts about Antioch (City)

1. The third largest city in the Roman Empire (at this time) – only Rome and Alexandria were larger
2. Population approx. ½ million
3. Main Street of Antioch ran for 4 miles
4. A Gentile city, yet housed a large colony of Jews
5. Nationalities from east and west flowed into and together here.
6. A very wealthy city, yet exceedingly corrupt in heathen worship.

E. The Message of Agabus (Acts 11:27-30)

- i. The need in Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-28)
- ii. The response of Antioch (Acts 11:29-30; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

III. ANTIOCH AS THE MODEL CHURCH (Acts 11:26) – “The Purpose of the Local Church”

A. A Preaching Church (Acts 11:19-20; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21-24)

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. **22** For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: **23** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; **24** But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

B. A Witnessing Church (Acts 11:21; Acts 4:31; Acts 5:28, 42; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21)
– Salvation Message

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are **ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. **21** For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

C. A Meeting Church (Acts 11:26; Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 18:20) – Fellowship

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

D. A Teaching Church (Acts 11:26; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Timothy 3:15)

- i. Doctrine
- ii. Practice

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

E. A Serving Church (Acts 11:26; Acts 13:1-2; Romans 16:1; Titus 3:1, 8)

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2** As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Romans 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

Titus 3:8 *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to **maintain good works**. These things are **good** and **profitable** unto men.

F. A Giving Church (Acts 11:29-30; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. **2** Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

G. A Praying Church (Acts 13:1-3; Acts 12:5)

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

H. A Missionary Church (Acts 13:3-4; Acts 14:26)

IV. WHY THE LOCAL CHURCH?

- A. For Assembly (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 14:23)
- B. For Accountability
 - i. The elders to rule (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3)
 - ii. The members to obey (Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24)
 - iii. The church to discipline (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; Galatians 6:1)

Note: These commandments and others cannot be followed/obeyed apart from the local New Testament church.