

## Acts 11 Kingdom Includes Gentiles

- God had to overcome Peter's objections in ch. 10.
- Other Jewish Christians were skeptical when Peter returned home.

### **1. Convicts Critics – v. 1-18**

- 1: rumors spread
- 2: circumcised = Jewish Christians
- 3: Cornelius not a proselyte; accusation not of baptizing Gentiles but eating with them.
- 4: Peter not offended or retaliates; gives in chronological order
- 5,6: vision
- 7,8: shows he shared their thinking at start
- 9,10: 10+ times mentions God/Divine messenger; defense: not done what he wanted to do, did what God told him to do
- 11,12: stresses providence; provides witnesses as proof; did not mention Cornelius' outstanding character, they didn't care – he was a Gentile!
- 13,14: key: words; Peter & Gentiles were God-motivated
- 15: at the beginning: Pentecost
- 16: recited a frequent promise of Jesus
- 17: same gift, equal: isos (isosceles triangle), 2 equal sides; "If you had been in my place, would you have stood in the Lord's way?"
- 18: willing to hear audience quiets down; Pr. 15:1 "soft answer turns away wrath."
- Conclusion: 1. God had given the Gentiles the opportunity to repent; 2. He provides that which produces repentance – the Gospel.

### **2. More Preaching – v. 19-26**

- Shift from Jerusalem to Antioch; Ch. 13 on Antioch is Paul's base
- 19: picks up thought from 8:4; Phoenicia: 15mi wide, northern edge of Palestine, goes 120 mi N; Cyprus: island, Barnabas' home; Antioch: 1<sup>st</sup> in 6:5, Nicator from there
- 20: Cyrene: N. Africa, Jews present at Pentecost (2:10); GK speaking Gentiles
- 21: divine approval
- 22: good news travelled; Barnabas sent to Antioch, he can't do miracles, but he can preach!

- 23: the great encourager encouraged them to continue and persevere
- 24: spiritual snapshot of Barnabas, only one called 'good' by Luke; dem. Fruit of Spirit
- Emphasis on spiritual growth resulted in spiritual growth.
- 25: for 7 years, Saul labored in obscurity. Barnabas travelled 100mi to find him.
- 26: not a simple task to find Saul, successful; assembled, taught 1yr.; "Chr." a well-known designation when Luke wrote. *Christos* (the anointed one) + *ianos* (signifies ownership).

### **3. Gentiles Send Help – v. 27-30**

- 27: 1<sup>st</sup> mention of prophets in the church
- 28: Agabus: well known prophet, shows up again in 21:10,11; Claudius Caesar (AD 41-54) faced many famines. Josephus 45-47AD.
- 29: relief: non-perishable foods more than money: 1. all members troubled and gave. 2. gave as they had prospered.
- 30: good intentions never filled an empty stomach or put clothes on a shivering body!
- Saul & Barnabas entrusted with carrying relief back, taken to elders not apostles – 1<sup>st</sup> mention of church leaders called elders.

### **Lessons:**

- We must always be willing to give an answer to all we do, 1 Pet. 3:15. Peter did not lash out against those asking questions, but he did provide them proof.
- Since there is no other name but Christ, 4:12, why would we want to wear the name of anyone or anything else? Calvin, Wesley, Luther, Smith, Clarke, Gandhi, Buddha, Meno Simons, Jakob Amman never died for your sins!
- The true Christian is always ready to help those in need. This might consist of giving our time, resources, or funds to offer relief to those in need.

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