

THE GOSPEL MOVES NORTH TO ANTIOCH OF SYRIA!

(Acts 11:19-30)

I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (1-2)

II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7)

III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (8-12)

A. CHARGES ARE BROUGHT AGAINST PETER BY THE JEWS IN JUDEA (11:1-3)

B. PETER PRESENTED THREE PIECES OF EVIDENCE IN HIS PERSONAL DEFENSE (11:4-17)

C. THE FINAL VERDICT (11:18)

D. SAVED JEWS BEGIN TO PREACH CHRIST TO THE GENTILES (11:19-30)

1. Not only had Stephen's martyrdom helped move the Gospel to Samaria (8:1-2), but v. 19 informs us that his death and the persecution that followed _____ and the _____ to farther regions north. (v. 19)

2. At first the exiled Jews _____ preached to fellow Jews; but the decisive change was initiated by some of the Jews from "*Cyprus and Cyrene*" who preached the good news to the _____ also in _____. (v. 20)

* What do we know about the ancient city of Antioch in the 1st century?

3. The Greek construction of the clause "*believed and turned to the Lord*" (an aorist participle with an aorist finite verb) does _____ necessarily refer to two separate actions, but rather it often indicates that the _____ actions _____ simultaneous. (v. 21)

4. Just as the apostles had done when they heard of the Samaritans' salvation (8:14-15), they once again _____ a representative to examine the details of the Gentiles _____ the Good News. (v. 22)

5. Barnabas proved to be an excellent choice (v. 22b); he was originally from Cyprus, and when he arrived in Antioch he _____, and he _____ the new converts to remain _____ to the Lord. (v. 23)

6. Luke under the _____ of the Holy Spirit personally _____ Barnabas as a wise choice because “*he was a _____, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith*”; as a result, there was tremendous numerical growth as people were saved. (v. 24)

7. With the rapid growth of the church in Antioch, this meant that Barnabas was going to need some _____; therefore, he went as far as Tarsus to recruit _____. (v. 25)

8. After providentially finding Saul, he brought him to Antioch, and for the next _____ both Saul and Barnabas _____ these believing Jews and Gentiles the _____ of _____. (v. 26a)

* How is this so very different from what is being taught (or not taught) in churches today?

9. Believers in Christ were first called _____ in Antioch; which identified them as a _____ group, _____ from religious Judaism and Gentile paganism. (v. 26b)

10. In light of what a prophet by the name of Agabus predicted about a coming _____ that would engulf the entire Roman Empire, believers at the church in Antioch decided to _____ the church in Jerusalem. (vv. 27-30)

* What lessons can you personally apply from this passage?