

Sermon Date: November 24, 2013
Acts 11:1-30 – The Word Goes to Antioch in Syria
Doug McBride

Read Acts 11:1-30

1. What did the circumcised Christians take issue with (v. 1-3)?

2. Peter concludes his response (v. 4-17) with a bold statement in v. 17. Compare with Ephesians 2:11-22 and comment.

3. How did those who were troubled with the Gentiles inclusion in the faith respond to Peter in v. 18?

4. What do we know about Barnabas from v. 22-30? See also Acts 4:36-37.

Throughout the book of Acts we see Barnabas playing an active part in the spread of the gospel. To get a further sense of Barnabas' impact check out the following verses: Acts 12:25, 13:1-3, 7, 42-50, 14:12-20, 15:2-12:22-26, 35-39.

- a. In a nutshell, what do these verses say about Barnabas and in particular his relationship with Paul?

b. Why is he such an important part of the growth of the Christian church?

c. What did God set Barnabas apart for and why?

5. Doug commented on the response of the Christians to famine in v. 28-30 that they don't say "how will we survive?" but rather "What can we do to help?" What is the lesson for us?

Concluding Thoughts:

Doug pointed out the process for church growth and maturity from Acts 11:

- 1. Teachers pour themselves out through teaching and prayer.*
- 2. The church sees their place in God's grand story and how much God has done for them.*
- 3. In overflowing gratitude and a deep sense of their own individual callings the believers:*
 - a. Love one another which the world notices*
 - b. Love those outside their walls*

The challenge – how can each of us claim our place in the grand story of God and live this out individually and corporately in our own lives?