

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What characteristics did the early Christians display that we should strive for today?
2. Describe the results of spiritual “team work” in the church? Among the brotherhood?<sup>[SoF:9]</sup>
3. How can the “team spirit” be enhanced in our churches today?
4. How did the Word initially spread to Antioch? What effect does personal “grassroots” efforts have in bringing others to Christ?
5. Why did Barnabas feel a need for the help of Saul (Paul)?
6. What is the difference between tolerance and grace?
7. How did the believers in Jerusalem show tolerance?
8. How did the believers in Antioch show grace?

### SUMMARY:

The believers at Antioch quickly sensed their responsibilities in the church. They were shown the virtues of true Christian living by the lives of Barnabas, Saul and others. So ought we to willingly assume responsibility in the church as outlined by God and thereby be an example and stimulus to other Christians who have become lazy.

### NOTES:

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<sup>[SoF 9]</sup> We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling the believer is empowered to live a Godly life in a spiritual unity with Christ.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #8

February 21, 2010

First Quarter

### THE CHRISTIANS AT ANTIOCH

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Acts 11:19-30*

**LESSON SETTING:** Disciples made trips to towns like Cyprus and Antioch and other areas north of Jerusalem where persecutions dispersed the Christians.

**TIME:** Approximately 43 AD

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#### I. THE MINISTRY OF BELIEVERS. Acts 11:19-21

- A. Establishment of Jewish churches (vs. 19)
- B. Revival at Antioch (vs. 20, 21)

#### II. THE MINISTRY OF BARNABAS. Acts 11:22-26

- A. A Good Minister
  1. He obeys orders. (vs. 22-23) 1 Samuel 15:22
  2. Recognizes God’s work. (vs. 23)
  3. Is happy, not envious, because God blesses other ministers. (vs. 23)
  4. Exhorts to godliness. (vs. 23) 1 Timothy 4:7
  5. Is a good man. (vs. 24)
  6. Is full of faith, given by the Holy Spirit. (vs. 24)<sup>[SoF:9]</sup>  
1 John 5:4
  7. Recognizes and uses the talents of others. (vs. 25, 26)
  8. Willing to give time for teaching. (vs. 26)

#### III. THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH. Acts 11:27-30

- A. Received prophets from Jerusalem. (vs. 27) John 13:35
- B. First relief work. (vs. 29) 1 John 3:17-18

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *THE DISCIPLES WERE CALLED CHRISTIANS FIRST AT ANTIOCH.*  
Acts 11:26

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Acts 12:1-25

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Psalm 91:1-16; Acts 5:17-25

**QUARTERLY THEME:** The First Church Officers

**TOPIC:** PETER DELIVERED FROM PRISON

**INTRODUCTION:**

The persecution worsens under Herod Agrippa and now James (one of the original twelve) becomes the first apostle to be killed. Peter is once again put into prison and, humanly speaking, was certain to be number two. The church had gone “under cover” in Jerusalem and nothing more could be done but to gather together secretly and pray for the impossible to happen.

Would King Herod order the believers exterminated one by one until those remaining renounced their faith? Should they, too, leave families and friends and flee Jerusalem as many others had done? What about the impending famine prophesied by Agabus?

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** God is able to deliver His people and bring victory out of seeming defeat.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *HE DELIVERETH AND RESCUETH, AND HE WORKETH SIGNS AND WONDERS IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.*

Daniel 6:27

How strengthening were such scriptural promises delivered to the church in their Old Testaments! With the Word in their hearts and minds, an undying hope inspired them to pray instantly and earnestly.

We in America, perhaps not even to this time, have come into such persecutions where we experience the promises of this golden text. Yet in many other areas of the world, Christians do experience the mighty hand of God working out their deliverance from many trying experiences. How often we read accounts of praise to God for the promises of this verse. The missionary accounts of the work in all areas of the world are good examples of God's blessings in times of tribulation.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 22 – 28**

M. The Three Hebrew Children Delivered. Daniel 3:19-28

T. Daniel Tested. Daniel 6:1-10

W. Daniel Delivered. Daniel 6:11-23

T. \*Peter Delivered from Prison. Acts 12:1-10

F. \*Peter Appears to the Church. Acts 12:11-17

S. \*The Death of a Persecutor. Acts 12:18-25

S. Paul's Deliverance. Acts 16:19-34