

Barnabas at Antioch

Acts 11:22-23

Introduction:

- A. Antioch — 250 miles from Jerusalem.
 - 1. Luke and Theophilus probably from there.
 - 2. Christians fled from persecution there (v. 19)
 - 3. Disciples first called Christians there (v. 26).
 - 4. Evangelistic church there. (13:1-3).
 - 5. Barnabas saw grace of God and was glad there (v. 23).
- B. Text teaches us three things about the grace of God.

Discussion:

- I. The Grace of God Can Be Seen** — “had seen ...”
 - A. By seeing people be saved (cf. Eph. 2:8-9).
 - 1. See and hear them confess (Rom. 10:10).
 - 2. See them be baptized (Mk. 16:15-16).
 - B. By seeing people change way of living (Tit. 2:11, 12).
 - 1. Paul (1 Tim. 1:12-16).
 - 2. Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:4; 6:9-11).
- II. The Grace of God Is Reason to Be Glad** — “he was glad.”
 - A. For his own sake (cf. 3 John 3-4).
 - B. For their sakes (cf. Rom. 12:15).
 - C. For the church’s sake.
 - 1. Family of God increasing (cf. 1 Tim. 2:15)
 - 2. Walls of building built up (cf. Pet. 2:5)
 - 3. Boundaries of kingdom widened (cf. Col. 1:13)
 - 4. Army enlarged (cf. 2 Tim. 2:3.4)
 - D. For the Lord’s sake (cf. 1 Tim. 2:4)
- III. The Grace of God Needs to Be Cultivated.**
 - A. By encouraging them *to continue* with the Lord.
 - 1. Baptism is just beginning of obedience (Matt. 28:18-20).
 - 2. Must be faith unto death (Rev. 2:10).
 - 3. Can abuse grace (Rom. 6:1-3; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 10:26-29)
 - B. By encouraging them to continue *with the Lord* (cf. John 6:68).
 - C. By encouraging them to continue with *purpose of heart*. - determination.
 - D. By encouraging the them *all* to continue — all need encouragement.
 - 1. Weak and strong.
 - 2. Young and old.
 - 3. Members and teachers.

Conclusion:

- A. How precious the grace of God.
- B. How evident is genuine Christianity.
- C. How important to continue in it.