

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Forty Three

Acts of the Apostles

Acts 11:1-30

Peter Defends God's Grace

The apostles and brethren in Judea soon heard of the Gentiles' conversion. When Peter returned to Jerusalem, brethren who were "of the circumcision" (i.e., Jewish Christians) took issue with his eating with uncircumcised men.

Peter carefully explained the sequence of events, including the vision in Joppa and the manner in which the Spirit fell upon the Gentiles as he began to speak to them.

The baptism of the Spirit on the Gentiles was understood to indicate that Gentiles were now allowed to hear the words of salvation, and that they could repent in order to have life

The Ministry of Barnabas and Saul

Luke then records how the gospel spread from Jerusalem to Antioch. Those scattered after the persecution of Stephen included men from Cyprus and Cyrene who began preaching Jesus to the Hellenists (Grecian Jews).

When a great number believed and turned to the Lord, the news was soon heard by those in the church at Jerusalem. Barnabas was sent to Antioch, and rejoiced in what he saw. He first spent sometime encouraging them by himself, but later went to Tarsus to find Saul. For a full year they worked together with the church in Antioch and taught many people.

The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch, and in hearing from the prophet Agabus that there was going to be a famine, they displayed their Christ-like character by sending relief according to their ability to brethren in Judea. This they did, sending it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul