

FIRST GENTILE CHURCH: ANTIOCH — ACTS 11

1 THE GROUNDWORK — *level*

vs.1-18

- Acts 11:1-18 is a report of what we have studied in Acts 10. When God repeats something it is important.
- Before the foundation can be laid for that church the ground had to be prepared. There is leveling and grading so the foundation could be put down. The groundwork was preparation.
- It has been at least 7 years from Pentecost (32AD) to the founding of the church at Antioch (39AD).

WHY 7 YEARS BEFORE A GENTILE CHURCH — WHY NOT IMMEDIATELY?

1. Apostolic authority had to be established
2. The right instruments had to be prepared
3. They needed time for prejudice to come down
 - God knows we have a problem with prejudice.
 - Usually, our life patterns are determined a great deal by our prejudice.
 - All that had gone on in the house of Cornelius was designed to shatter prejudice.
 - Verse 18 is a catalyst in the history of the church. They finally admitted that Gentiles could be saved.



2 THE GENESIS — *life*

vs.19-21

- “Genesis” simply means birth or beginning. The groundwork was laid and it took about 7 years.
- Acts 11:19 picks up right where chapter 8:4 left off (**Acts 8:5-11:18**). Luke goes right back to the persecution that broke out at the time of Stephen (lead by Saul).
- There is a little interlude with Cornelius and then he comes back.
- They would go into towns and find the Greek speaking Jews (Hellenist Jews) and share Christ with them.



3 THE GROWTH — *learning*

vs.22-26

- The church in Jerusalem were getting rained on by Gentiles getting saved.
- Barnabas was being sent to Antioch and had the qualifications needed for this ministry.
 1. Spiritual Attitude — Love
 2. Spiritual Qualities
 - A. RIGHTEOUS is his testimony to OTHERS (v.24)
 - B. FULL OF FAITH is his testimony to HIMSELF (v.24)
 - C. FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is his testimony to GOD (v.24)
- They assembled with the church and for one year they did what? Taught (v.26).



4 THE GENEROSITY — *loving*

vs.27-30

- The church not only needs to be sound in doctrine, but they also need to have love.
- Here are Gentiles showing their love to the Jews who have so long hated them. What a beautiful picture of love.
- They not only sent money, but they also sent men. And which men did they send? Their best.
- Those who are generous and thankful are the most mature.

