



Church Polity in the Book of Acts

Acts 11 & 13

6/23/19 PM

THE CHURCH DEALING WITH GROWTH

Introduction:

The Progress and Growth of the Church in Acts

1:15 - "...the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons)..."
2:41b - "...and that day there were added about three thousand souls."
2:47b - "And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."
4:4 - "But many of those who had heard the message believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand."
5:14 - "And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number."
5:42 - "And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."
6:7 - "The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem"
9:31 - "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria...continued to increase."
11:21 - "The hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord."
12:24 - "But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied."
13:49 - "The word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region."
14:1 - "a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks"
16:5 - "So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily."
17:4 - "some of them were persuaded...along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women"
19:10 - "This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks."
19:20 - "So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing."
28:31 - "[Paul was] preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered."

I. THE GROUNDWORK LAID BEFORE ANTIOCH (11:19-21)

A. Preparations (vs. 19-20a)

"scattered because of the persecution"
"Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch"
"speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone"
"men of Cyprus and Cyrene, came to Antioch"

B. Progress (vs. 20b)

"began speaking to the Greeks also"
"preaching the Lord Jesus"

C. Power (vs. 21)

"the hand of the Lord was with them"
"a large number who believed turned to the Lord"



II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH (11:22-26)

A. Barnabas - leadership from the mother church (vs. 22-24)

"the news about them reached...the church at Jerusalem"
"they sent Barnabas off to Antioch"

he arrived and witnessed the grace of God”

“he began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord”

“and considerable numbers were brought to the Lord”

B. Saul - leadership for the missional church (vs. 25-26)

“left for Tarsus look for Saul”

“when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch”

“for an entire year they met with the church and taught...”

“...taught considerable numbers”

“the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch”

B. Others - leadership for the mission church (Ch. 13)

1st C = Barnabas, Paul

2nd C = Ignatius, Theophilus

3-4th C = Lucian, Theodore, Chrysostom, Theodoret

III. THE GERMINATION OF THE CHURCH OUT OF ANTIOCH (13:1-3)

A. The Leadership of the Church (vs. 1)

“prophets and teachers”

- Barnabas
- Simeon
- Lucius
- Manaen
- Saul

B. The Leading of the Holy Spirit (vs. 2)

“while they were ministering...”

“the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me...’”

“for the work to which I have called them”

C. The Launch of the Mission (vs. 3)

praying (“when they had fasted and prayed”)

partnering (“laid their hands on them”)

parting (“sent them off”)

Conclusion:

- 1) Starting, encouraging, and strengthening new churches is what we must be about!
- 2) The primary means of accomplishing this is through leadership
- 3) Churches also constitute a “band of brothers” and must demonstrate this in tangible ways.