

Called Christians First in Antioch

Introduction: "The preaching of the gospel to Cornelius was a thing which we poor _____ of the Gentiles have reason to reflect upon with a great deal of joy and thankfulness; for it was the bringing of light to us who sit in darkness" (Henry).

- I. The _____ (Acts 11:1-3)
- A. Word was spreading about the _____ reaching the Gentiles.
 - B. This change made many Jews _____.
 - C. They accused Peter of committing _____ by eating with Gentiles.
 - D. Eating with others signified _____ (Mk. 2:16; 1 Cor. 5:11).
 - E. "These men were of Jonah's mind, who, in a jealousy for his people, was _____ that the Ninevites received the Word of God, and justified himself in it" (Henry).
 - F. It is sad when God's people become judgmental of those who reach out to those living _____ lifestyles (Mk. 2:17).
- II. The _____ (Acts 11:4-18)
- A. Peter had to rehearse the whole matter to his fellow Jews—explaining to them how this was truly of the _____.
 - B. This was something that Peter had to _____ with too before accepting.
 - C. Christ brought about _____ for the better—equal access for all into the holy place (Mt. 27:51; Heb. 4:16; Col. 3:11; 1 Tim. 2:5).
 - D. After hearing Peter's account of Cornelius' salvation, there was no more _____ --they knew it was of the Lord (Jonah 2:9).
- III. The _____ (Acts 11:19-30)
- A. The church continued to face _____.
 - B. The gospel was spreading around the known _____.
 - C. The topic of their preaching was the Lord _____ (1 Cor. 2:2).
 - D. The church was _____ by leaps and bounds.
 - E. Once the Jerusalem church heard of what was going on, they _____ Barnabas to find out more.
 - F. Barnabas was simply a great _____ --he always lifted people up in the work of the Lord.
 - G. He went to bring back Saul to _____ him in the great work at Antioch.
 - H. Antioch was the "Paris of the ancient world"—filled with much culture, but also great _____.
 - I. It would become the center of their future _____ journeys.
 - J. They spent an entire _____ there teaching the church.
 - K. They were called _____ first in Antioch—what a testimony!

Conclusion: "Are we Christians? Then we ought to think, and speak, and act, in every thing as becomes Christians, and to do nothing to the reproach of that worthy name by which we are called" (Henry).