COMMITTED TO A CAUSE

Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that **with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord**. Acts 11:23 (KJV)

 One of the most faithful men of the Bible is Barnabas. After being sent to Antioch, he exhorted or urged the Christians at Antioch to cleave unto the Lord with purpose of heart.

 It seems that men of Cyprus and Cyrene had been won to the Lord and as they took the gospel further they came to Antioch and witnessed to the Grecians. A great number of the Grecian men in Antioch believed and turned to the Lord. Acts 11:19 indicates that all of this may have been spurred by the persecution of Stephen. When the church in Jerusalem heard of the great number of new believers in Antioch they sent Barnabas to help encourage and establish them.

 Committing our lives to Jesus is no small thing. It takes purpose of heart. Romans 12:2 says “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” We are allowing Jesus to transform us; to make us who and what he wants us to be. By accepting Christ we receive God’s purpose **to** us. By allowing him to rule in our lives we are permitting his purpose to be worked **through** us. Therefore our commitment to him is huge.

 This cannot be accomplished by merely deciding to do so. Barnabas knew that it would take adhering firmly or tightly holding to the Lord. Even more so it would take God holding firmly to us. For us, it is holding to His Word; being glued to His Spirit and praying without ceasing. Being faithful to our vows should be a common trait of the Christian follower.

 We need commitment in many areas of our lives and among many of our people today but the first commitment on our part should be to our Lord. The commitment in other areas or to other people and things will then come much easier and have greater meaning. So with purpose of heart, cleave unto the Lord!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram