



Woodmont Beacon

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The Gospel Spread

By: Steven Locklair

In Acts 10-19, Luke recorded the reception of God's word by the Gentiles, the disciples being called Christians first at Antioch, and the three missionary journeys of the apostle Paul.

When Jesus gave the great commission to the apostles to preach the gospel to every creature, they didn't think that it included the Gentiles at first for they remained in Jerusalem for many years saving only the Jews. It took a persecution for the church to be scattered to other places.

In Acts 10, we read that Peter still thinks that the Gentiles are unclean, until he received the vision on the housetop of unclean animals 3 times where God said that He had cleansed what had been unholy. As Peter was perplexed by what it meant, the Spirit told him that 3 men were looking for him with the centurion being divinely directed by an angel to hear a message from him. He now understood that God is not a respecter of persons, and that those who fear Him in every nation are accepted by Him. After hearing the gospel, Cornelius and his household were baptized with water. The circumcised believers could not refuse the Gentiles from being saved, since these Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit by speaking in tongues even as the apostles had on the Day of Pentecost.

In Acts 11, Peter had to explain to the circumcised believers why he went to an uncircumcised man's house and ate with them. They rejoiced that the Gentiles had been granted repentance leading to their salvation. We know that they weren't saved when they spoke in tongues for Peter had said, he shall speak words by which you and your household will be saved. The gospel spread to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch, who finds Saul at Tarsus and brought him there to meet with the church. They stay for a year and many were taught the word of God. After Agabus prophesied about a famine all over the world, the Gentile churches plan to send relief to the brethren in Judea.

In Acts 12, Herod has the apostle James executed with the sword and when it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter. The church was fervently praying for Peter. An angel of the Lord delivered him from prison, and he went to John Mark's mother's house who were shocked that he was still alive. Herod had the guards executed and he suffers a painful death after he did not give God the glory when the people called him a god.

In Acts 13, the Holy Spirit set apart Barnabas and Saul to preach the word of God on the 1st missionary journey. John Mark went with them. They went from Antioch to Cyprus to southern Asia Minor and back to Antioch. Serguis Paulus believed while Elymas the magician was blinded for a time at Paphos. John Mark left them at Pamphylia. Paul preached a sermon at the synagogue in Antioch Pisidia which went so well that almost the whole city came out to hear the word of God the next Sabbath. When the Jews saw the crowd, they were jealous and contradicted what Paul preached, so he said that he would go to the Gentiles. The gospel spread throughout the whole region and the Jews drove Paul out of town, but the disciples were filled with joy.

In Acts 14, a large number of Jews and Gentiles believed at Iconium, but Paul and Barnabas fled from there when there was talk of stoning them. When Paul healed a lame man at Lystra, the people thought they were gods, but Paul and Barnabas restrained them from offering sacrifices to them. The Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and stoned Paul at Lystra, but he was able to get up and go to Derbe where he made many disciples there. They returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch and strengthened the disciples there along with appointing elders in every church. They sailed back to Antioch and reported all the things that God had done with them, and stay a long time.

In Acts 15, when Jewish brethren began to teach that the Gentiles had to be circumcised and obey the Law of Moses to be saved, Paul and Barnabas took issue with that doctrine, and the church at Antioch sent them down to Jerusalem to discuss it with the apostles and elders there. Peter, Paul & Barnabas, and James gave many divinely approved examples and Scripture to show that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised. They agreed to write a letter to the Gentile brethren at Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia confirming that fact. The new converts only needed to abstain from things sacrificed to idols and sexual immorality. When the Gentile brethren read it, they were encouraged. Paul asked Barnabas to go back to visit the brethren on their first journey. When Barnabas wanted John Mark to go with them, there was such a sharp disagreement that Paul asked Silas to go with him to Syria and Cilicia, while Barnabas took John Mark to Cyprus.

Woodmont church of Christ

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes for all ages at 9:30
Worship Assembly at 10:30

Sunday Afternoon

Worship Assembly at 5:00

Wednesday Evening

Bible Classes for all ages at 7:30

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Welcome visitors!

You are our honored guest. Please take a moment to complete a visitor's card and let us know if there is anything we can do for you in a spiritual way. We would love to study the Bible further with you or talk about the church here at Woodmont if you are new to the area or would like to become a member.

In Acts 16, on Paul's second missionary journey he meet Timothy and because of his good reputation among the brethren at Lystra and Iconium, Paul decided to take him on the journey. They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach in Asia at this time, but when Paul received a vision to come to Macedonia, they put out to sea from Troas to Philippi. Paul found a group of women praying by the riverside and spoke with them. Lydia and her household are baptized after hearing the message. When Paul commanded an evil spirit to come out of the slave girl in the name of Christ (who was telling all the people that Paul and the others were preaching the way of salvation, day after day) the slave masters dragged Paul and Silas before the authorities proclaiming that they are teaching unlawful customs that Romans don't observe. Paul and Silas were beaten with rods, but instead of being downcast they were singing and praying in prison while the prisoners listened. When there is an earthquake at midnight with the shackles of the prisoners being loosened and all the doors opened, Paul hollered to the jailer to not kill himself, for no one had escaped. When the jailer asked what he had to do to be saved, they told him to believe in Jesus. After hearing the word of God he was baptized immediately with his household in the same hour of the night. The Philippian jailer went from the brink of committing suicide to salvation in the same hour of the night.

In Acts 17, Paul reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue at Thessalonica for 3 Sabbaths about Jesus being the Messiah, and some of them were persuaded along with God fearing Greeks and the leading women. The Jews stirred up the crowd along with the city authorities against Paul and Silas, so the brethren sent them away to Berea. The Bereans were more noble minded than the Thessalonians, and received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures to see whether what the apostle Paul said was so. After many believed and the Jews agitated those crowds, the brethren sent Paul away to Athens, while Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. Paul's spirit was stirred up by all the idols at Athens, and he noticed one was set up to an unknown god. This gave him the opportunity to preach to them about the one true God, who created the universe and mankind. All people should seek after Him and repent of their sins, because God has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by His Son, and gave proof to all men by raising Christ from the dead.

In Acts 18, Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla who are tentmakers and he stays with them at Corinth. He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, he gave up tentmaking to preach the word fulltime and lived with Titius Justus next to the synagogue. Many Corinthians, when they heard, were believing and being baptized along with Crispus the leader of the synagogue. After the Jews blasphemed Paul, he was encouraged by the Lord telling him to not be afraid, for He had many people in the city. Paul stayed a year and a half there. Paul preached at Ephesus in the synagogue, and Aquila and Priscilla came with him. Paul left them there while he went to Caesarea, Antioch, and then encouraged the brethren in the Galatian region on his 3rd missionary journey. Meanwhile, Aquila and Priscilla hear an eloquent man named Apollos who was mighty in the Scriptures, but only knew the baptism of John. They corrected him privately and when he wanted to go to Achaia, the brethren at Ephesus wrote exhorting the brethren in Achaia to welcome him. Apollos was a great help to the brethren there, as he refuted the Jews in the synagogues with the Scriptures, demonstrating that Jesus is the Christ.

In Acts 19, Paul came to Ephesus, while Apollos was in Corinth, and found some disciples who only knew the baptism of John. When Paul explained with the Scriptures about John the Baptist, who told the people to believe in Jesus, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. He spoke out boldly in the synagogue for 3 months. When the Jews spoke evil of the way, he took the disciples and spoke to them daily for 2 years, so that all who were Asia heard the word of God. God was performing many miracles through Paul. Jewish exorcists (7 sons of Sceva), who tried to duplicate Paul's miracles in the name of Jesus, were overcome by an evil spirit and it became known to all who lived in Ephesus. Many were burning their expensive magic books in the sight of all, and the word of God was growing mightily. Demetrius, the silversmith, stirred up all the people against Paul because he had preached against man made gods, which was ruining his profit. Demetrius stirred up the crowd against Paul by saying that not only is this trade going to be lost, but the great goddess Artemis would be dethroned from her magnificence of whom the world worshiped at that time. The crowd shouted for two hours, "great is Artemis of the Ephesians". The town clerk calmed the people down, and told them that if they had a complaint against Paul, they ought to bring charges against him and take it to the courts.

Noteworthy News

-Melodie Smith (Marc's wife) was taken by ambulance to Providence hospital in Waco on Friday. She was still in ICU as of yesterday.

-Gayle Webster (Rehab after her back surgery)

-Bill Moore is still in isolation for 14 days after his physical therapist tested positive for COVID-19.

-Dennis Scroggins (cancer- oral chemotherapy)

-Recovering from surgeries: Bruce Tilley, Joy Narmore, Gary & Gayle Webster, Julie Perkins

-Several facilities are in lockdown. This affects the Moores & Evelyn Anderson.

Remember **Julie Perkins, Tom & Shirley Thompson, Andrew & Jennifer Locklair, David & Robert Jones, Brett's mom, Katy Jones, Barbara Johnson, Dottie Burns, June Moore, Stan Cox, Kevin & Cassie Williams, Dennis Scroggins, Gaylon Brown, Bruce Tilley, Bonnie Gary, Marie Bolton, Ron Daley, Jan King, Lonell Plyler, Melissa Simpson, Jan Gay, Dora Frisbee, Jenny Hardwick, Donna Lewis, Jackie Branch, Paul Simpson, Melodie Smith, Chip Foster, Terry Jordan, Auree Noll, Elaine Locklair**

- The elders stated that we will be meeting at the building for the next couple of weeks in a short service at the building at 10:30 to partake of the Lord's supper, sing a few hymns, with a short exhortation. At 5 PM we will study together on WebEx. On Wednesday at 7:30 PM we will study Daniel 9 on WebEx.



Prayer Requests

Sick/Shut-In:

- Ada Scott
- Bill and June Moore
- Jan Gay
- Gary & Gayle Webster
- Dennis Scroggins
- Katy Jones
- Kevin Williams, Sr.
- Joy Narmore

Our Elders

- Bruce Tilley
- Brett Narmore

Our Deacons

- Jeff Gary
- Gary Webster
- Kyle Austin

Calendar

Men We Support

- Dennis Scroggins