

unexpected

THE DIVINE ⇌ IN BETWEEN

ACTS 11:1-26

the arrival of the Christian

I. The skeptical criticized Peter's _____ . (vv. 1-3)

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." vv. 1-3

This new movement challenged what was familiar for the early believers.

the first Christians were not defined by their _____ .

II. Peter's _____ to God was validated by God's power. (vv. 4-18)

But Peter began and explained it to them in order ... "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life." vv. 4, 16-18

Peter brought others along to witness this movement of the gospel.

The Holy Spirit validated this message of the gospel.

The skeptics believed this expansion of the gospel.

the first Christians were defined by _____ .

III. Barnabas and Paul confirmed and encouraged this _____ gospel. (vv. 19-26)

The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians. vv. 22-26

Barnabas verifies the message of the gospel for these new believers.

Barnabas finds and recruits Paul to partner alongside him.

the first Christians were defined by their unity in _____ .

Investigate your _____ in light of God's Word.

Evaluate your own _____ in light of God's leading, and take your next step.

Foster personal _____ in light of God's grace.

SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 11:1-30. What criticism was raised against Peter? What did Peter's answer teach those who disagreed with him?

2. If circumcised Christians (former Jews) objected to having any contact with Gentiles, how would they be able to evangelize them? What other barriers between Jew and Gentile did God remove with His new decree to Peter?

“WHEN GOD WANTS TO MAKE a change within the church or a Christian organization, He rarely communicates it to the masses. More often, He prompts an individual—most often the leader—to become His agent of change. Depending upon the health of the organization, this individual receives either respect or ridicule—rarely anything in between. Truth be told, change is always challenging. If the vision for change comes from God, the proposal will not contradict Scripture; on the contrary, the new direction will help the organization become more obedient to the Word of God. Whether or not others recognize it, the future of that organization will depend upon its response to the Lord's agent of change. Peter recounted his experience on the rooftop in Joppa ‘in orderly sequence’ (11:4), and a comparison between his recollection (11:5-11) and the event (10:9-20) shows he left out no detail.”

CHARLES SWINDOLL

3. How does one come to understand when theology is correct or not? How open are you to having wrong beliefs corrected, and how do you know you need to consider a correction?

4. What principle of *accepting* others do you want to use from Peter's example? What principle of *encouraging* others do you want to use from Barnabas' example?

5. How will you ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to others you tend to dislike?

6. A thought to ponder for the week: Dr. David Otis Fuller has asked, *If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?*

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

CONNECTING POINT If you've been worshipping at Christ Chapel for a while but haven't connected any further, Connecting Point is a great place to start; you'll meet people who are putting down roots at Christ Chapel and the experience will introduce you to all the ways we're here to help you grow in your faith. Come be a part at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 6! Sign up today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/cp.

QUARTERLY DAY OF PRAYER Setting aside an hour on Monday, Aug. 7, we'll gather to pray together! Focusing on the richness of our salvation and reading through verses in Ephesians, this will be a special time. Be a part by coming to the Chapel from noon to 1 p.m. or follow along with a time of personal prayer with a prayer guide at www.ccbcfamily.org/qdop.

MUSIKGARTEN This fall, discover the joy of music and watch your child's love for it blossom in an engaging and interactive class, Musikgarten. Join us for 13 weeks of musical exploration, with classes scheduled once a week for 30 minutes. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to develop your child's musical skills! Visit www.ccbcfamily.org/musik to register.

RE|ENGAGE YOUR MARRIAGE re|engage offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small groups. Classes begin Sunday, Aug. 13! Register today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/reengage.

KIDSCAMP TO GO Be a part of the largest outreach program of the year and take KidsCamp to your neighborhood! Equipped with all the supplies and teaching materials needed, you'll have everything to share the hope of Jesus and take the fun of KidsCamp to your community. Learn more about this REACH opportunity that the whole family can do together by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/togo.

BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation, we'd love to chat with you about volunteering with our Production Team. Get the conversation started by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/production.

MANPOWER Hoping to create a space for widows to experience encouragement and practical support, Christ Chapel hosts one Saturday every month for our ManPower group to help with outdoor projects and home maintenance tasks. Learn more about being a part by emailing ManPower@christchapelbc.org.

THERE'S A JOB FOR YOU From audio and students to communications, every role at Christ Chapel makes it possible for us to make much of Jesus! Start a conversation today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/jobs to get started.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.