

# Barnabas and the Grace of God

Acts 11:22-23

## Introduction:

- A. Antioch — 250 miles from Jerusalem.
  - 1. Christians fled from persecution there (v. 19)
  - 2. Disciples first called Christians there (v. 26).
  - 3. Evangelistic church there. (13:1-3).
  - 4. Barnabas saw grace of God and was glad there (v. 23).
- B. Text teaches us three things about the grace of God.

## Discussion:

### I. The Grace of God Can Be Seen — “had seen ...”

- A. By seeing people be saved (cf. Eph. 2:8-9).
  - 1. See and hear them confess (Rom. 10:10).
  - 2. See them be baptized (Mk. 16:15-16).
- B. By seeing people change way of living (Tit. 2:11, 12).
  - 1. Paul (1 Tim. 1:12-16).
  - 2. Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:4; 6:9-11).

### II. The Grace of God Is Reason to Be Glad — “he was glad.”

- A. For his own sake (cf. 3 John 3-4).
- B. For their sakes (cf. Rom. 12:15).
- C. For the church’s sake.
  - 1. Family of God increasing (cf. 1 Tim. 2:15)
  - 2. Walls of building built up (cf. Pet. 2:5)
  - 3. Boundaries of kingdom widened (cf. Col. 1:13)
  - 4. Army in enlarged (cf. 2 Tim. 2:3.4)
- D. For the Lord’s sake (cf. 1 Tim. 2:4)

### III. The Grace of God Needs to Be Cultivated.

- A. By encouraging them *to continue* with the Lord.
  - 1. Baptism is just beginning of obedience (Matt. 28:18-20).
  - 2. Must be faith unto death (Rev. 2:10).
  - 3. Can abuse grace (Rom. 6:1-3; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 10:26-29)
- B. By encouraging them to continue *with the Lord* (cf. John 6:68).
- C. By encouraging them to continue with *purpose of heart*. - determination.
- D. By encouraging the them *all* to continue — all need encouragement.
  - 1. Weak and strong.
  - 2. Young and old.
  - 3. Members and teachers.

## Conclusion:

- A. How precious the grace of God.
- B. How evident is genuine Christianity.
- C. How important to continue in it.