

July 9, 2023

Acts 11:1-26

“Remain True To The Lord With Devoted Hearts”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

V 18 “Those who are spiritually alive love the Lord, confess him, worship him, pray to him, feed on his Word, serve him, etc. God has succeeded in opening the door of the church to the Gentiles; he succeeded also in having the Jewish Christians who were already within the portal welcome these incoming Gentiles and praise him for bringing them in.” *R. C. H. Lenski.*

Peter makes a good defense for being with the Gentiles and authenticating their being a part of the kingdom of God. Yet, in **Galatians 2:11-13** he will fail miserably along with Barnabas in shrinking back from their convictions in the face of peer pressure! No body is perfect. Therefore, when you sin, confess, repent, and carry on.

A Christian is a person who is a follower of Jesus Christ, He is the Lord/Boss of their life. A Christian disciple participates in personal discipleship, they are in the Word of God daily, they study the Word, they obey the Word. **Psalm 119:11**. A Christian disciple loves other followers of Jesus, see **John 13:34-35**. You will know them by their fruit.

Barnabas had the gift of encouragement. People like this are always needed in the church. They are peacemakers, they seek no glory for themselves, and they seek to bring out the best in others. Be a blessing, encourage others all along the way.

Vv 19-21, These three verses are significant. The Samaritans of **chapter 8** were partly Jewish, the Ethiopian eunuch was on his own reading Scripture, and Cornelius took the initiative in seeking the gospel, but here, are the church's first steps to take the gospel message to uncircumcised Greeks! SIGNIFICANT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH. Gleaned from *Stanley D. Toussaint.*

Application:

A Christian disciple is a person who is a follower of Jesus Christ. They have accepted the gospel message for themselves and they gladly take part in the spread of the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus, see **Romans 10:8-17**. A Christian disciple bears spiritual fruit, the Lord desires that we bear much fruit, see **John 15:1-8**. True to the Lord with devoted hearts. “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” **Hebrews 12:28-29**.