

Why Support Missions?

Introduction:

- A. **Day 50**
 - B. As Baptist, missions' is in our blood...
 - C. But why support it?
 - D. *While our passage may or may not deal directly with missions, we find the principles for missions.*
 - E. Acts 11:19-30
 - F. "As Christians, each of us is responsible to take part in missions."
 - G. Why?
 - H. There are three truths we must understand...
- I. We must understand the need for missions.
- a. We must see the need for the spreading of missions.
 - i. The setting of our text
 - 1. This sometime after the conversion of Saul or Paul.
 - 2. "Stephen" (19)
 - a. Paul had led the persecution on the church since the stoning of Stephen in Ch. 8.
 - b. Even though Paul was converted the persecution continued.
 - c. Christians scattered as far north as Antioch (300 miles north of Jerusalem)
 - d. This is where are text begins in these northern areas.
 - ii. Why would God allow them to be persecuted?
 - 1. He wanted the message of the gospel to spread outside of just Jerusalem.
 - 2. Acts 8:1-4
 - 3. When the people scattered out, the gospel scattered out.
 - iii. Missions' is about spreading to gospel outside of our settings.
 - 1. The mandate is to reach the world, not just Bowling Green, KY.
 - b. We must see the need for cross-cultural missions.
 - i. Notice the progression of the preaching of the gospel. (19-20)
 - 1. They started only preaching to the Jews.
 - 2. However some started preaching to the Hellenists.
 - a. KJV – "Grecians"
 - b. This was people who spoke Greek and lived in the Greek culture.
 - c. These believers not only preached to those who were like them, but to those where were different.
 - d. God blessed their service. (21)
 - i. "Hand of the Lord"
 - ii. God was at work in this.
 - iii. A great number were saved.
 - ii. Today God is still using missions to reach people of different cultures.
 - 1. Jesus didn't just die for Kentuckians, but for all peoples.
 - 2. We need missions to reach people who are different from us.
 - 3. **[Crayon Box]**
 - 4. International missions' is just as important as local missions.
 - c. We must see the need for the involvement of the church in missions.
 - i. The news of this great thing in Antioch did not just stay up north. (22a)
 - 2. "But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world." – Acts 1:8
 - 3. Missions will never be done until it has scattered to the entire world.

1. It traveled all 300 miles down to the church in Jerusalem.
 2. The church received this news and acted.
 3. This is important because it shows that churches were involved with the continuance of the gospel in other lands.
- ii. Today the churches of the Lord need to be involved with missions.
1. We are not to function in a dying routine.
 2. We need to be active in missions.
 - a. We locally need to be missionaries to our community.
 - b. We need to be active to see new churches planted in our nation.
 - c. We need to be actively supporting the work of gospel around the globe.

“The next truth we must understand...”

- II. We must understand the plan for missions.
- a. God plans for missions to come out of churches.
 - i. The church in Jerusalem sent out Barnabas to Antioch. (22)
 1. They sent him to be assistance to the forming of the church there.
 2. Barnabas was sent out on behalf of the church.
 3. {A foreshadow} Barnabas and Saul later would be set apart just for missions – 13:2
 - ii. Today missions’ is still the duty of the church.
 1. The Great Commission was given for the church to fulfill.
 - a. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have*

- commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” – Matt. 28:19&20*
- b. Missions’ was given to the church to do not organizations.
2. However, it is biblical for churches to work together in sending missionaries.
- a. Paul’s ministry was supported by more than one church.
 - b. *“I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.” – 2 Cor. 11:8*
 - c. **Today we support the BMA with other churches in order to do the same thing.**
- b. God plans for missions to be carried out by people.
- i. Notice that they used the man Barnabas for this ministry.
 1. Not a super hero
 2. Just a man.
 - ii. However, Barnabas was a man of distinct characteristics for missions.
 1. He was glad. (23a)
 - a. He was glad to see God at work.
 - b. He was glad to see people being saved.
 2. He was an encourager. (23b)
 - a. KJV – “Exhorted”
 - b. He encouraged them to hold tight to the Lord Jesus as they had a new life and a new journey.
 3. He was a good man. (24a)
 - a. He was a humble man that was kind and caring.
 - b. Notice what was not mentioned:
 - i. Great preacher
 - ii. Great teacher
 - iii. Great speaker
 - iv. No talents mentioned...

- c. “It is far better to be a good man than a talented one.”
 - 4. He was a full man. (24b)
 - a. Full of the Holy Spirit
 - i. This doesn’t mean the some have less of the Holy Spirit than others.
 - ii. Barnabas was fully submissive to the Spirit.
 - b. Full of faith
 - i. He was not just a man of faith, but confident.
 - ii. Confident in God & the Word of God.
 - 5. God blessed His witness. (24c)
- iii. Today, God uses people of character to carry out His mission.
 - 1. Missionaries are people just like us.
 - 2. Missionaries are more successful if they live like Barnabas.
 - a. Glad to see souls saved.
 - b. Encouragers of the church.
 - c. Good people of character.
 - d. Full of the Holy Spirit & of faith.
 - 3. They are to be men and women ready to serve.
 - 4. **[Accident Baptist Church – Tanzania]**
- c. God plans for missions to be passed on to others.
 - i. Barnabas did not do this work alone. (25)
 - 1. He sought the assistance of Saul.
 - 2. They worked together in ministering to this church. (26)
 - 3. Later in Acts, we see Paul take over and eventually branch out.
 - ii. Today we see that God has this same plan for missions.
 - 1. It is not to be done alone.
 - 2. “No man is an island, neither are missionaries.”

- 3. Also, missions’ is to be passed on to other people to do as well.
- 4. The next generation is just as much need for missions as this one.
- 5. **[SOAR – Missions]**

“The final truth...”

- III. We must understand the opportunity for missions.
 - a. We have an opportunity to care for missions.
 - i. A famine went throughout the land. (27&28)
 - 1. KJV – “Dearth”
 - 2. It stuck the believers in Judea especially hard.
 - a. They were already facing poverty & persecution
 - b. Now they were in a famine.
 - 3. From this we see the church in Antioch reacting with care... “Then” (29a)
 - ii. Today we have the opportunity to open our hearts to those around the world.
 - 1. We should care for the well being of fellow brethren.
 - 2. We should especially care for the needs of those on the mission field.
 - 3. **[Spiritual heart burn]**
 - b. We have an opportunity to help in missions.
 - i. The church in Antioch gave financial relief to those in Judea. (29)
 - 1. They gave as individuals.
 - a. “Disciples”
 - b. They didn’t just have the church treasurer write a check.
 - c. They took personal responsibility
 - 2. They gave what they could.
 - a. “Ability”
 - b. They gave what they could.
 - c. They didn’t give out of obligation, but generously.
 - 3. They gave out of love.
 - a. “Determined”

- b. This was a decided act.
 - c. They wanted to show real Christian love.
 - ii. Today we have the opportunity to help fellow brethren around the world by financially giving.
 - 1. **[Our special offering]**
 - 2. Giving is a biblical principle.
 - 3. We truly are helping the cause of Christ when we financially support missions.
- c. We have an opportunity to partner in missions.
 - i. Just as the church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to assist the church in Antioch, now Antioch was sending back Barnabas & Saul. (30)
 - 1. Barnabas and Saul were working on behalf of the church of Antioch.
 - 2. The church was partnering with Barnabas & Saul to help Judea.
 - ii. The same happens today.
 - 1. When we send aid or assist in missionary work funds, we are partnering with those missionaries.
 - 2. At SRBC we monthly partner with:
 - a. **Crews – Idaho**
 - b. **Franks – Ukraine**
 - c. **Lindsey – Ghana**
 - 3. Even though we may not be able to go on foreign soil, we can still be co-laborers for the work of missions.

Conclusion

- A. How are you supporting missions?
- B. Are you part of God's mission?