

Sunday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> '18

## Questions for further study

### Read Acts 8:1-4 & 11:19-26

1. How did the gospel first get to Antioch? What can we discover from these passages about what characterised the church in the first century in Antioch?
2. Re-read 11:19-21 How does Luke describe their conversion? What do we see here about the sovereignty of God in conversion, and people's responsibility? (see also 1 Corinthians 3:6-11. What is our responsibility? Who gives the increase?)
3. Re-read 11:22-24. How did the church in Jerusalem respond when they heard about the believers in Antioch? Why do you think Barnabas was a good choice (Acts 4:36; Acts 11:20)? What was Barnabas's response to the conversion of these Gentiles? How is this an appropriate response (Luke 15:7, 10, 32)? What might have been the response of many of the Jews in Jerusalem? What did Barnabas see evidence of that caused his heart to rejoice? (see also Acts 13:43, and what Paul said to the Ephesian elders to in Acts 20:32.) Why is grace so important in the Christian life? How can we "grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ - 2 Peter 3:18?
4. Re-read 11:24-26. What did Barnabas do when he saw the work in Antioch was more than he could handle? What are some of the reasons that he went to get Saul? What did Barnabas and Saul focus on at Antioch? Why is this such a priority for any church? (see also Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:11-14; John 8:31, 32). What can we learn from this?
5. What were the disciples called at Antioch? What else were they called - Acts 6:1; Acts 9:2, 13, 30; Acts 11:1? What did Jesus tell his disciples in John 13:34-35? How can we "live up to our name" as Christians?
6. Read Acts 13:1-3. What can we learn from these verses about being available to God?
7. This weekend we've been celebrating 10 years since we started holding Sunday services in the new auditorium. What have you personally learnt from God in the faith venture we continue to be on as a church? Use what you've learnt from this study about the church in Antioch to fuel your prayers for our life & witness as Jesus' followers - individually & as a church.