

# Local Churches In The N.T. #3

## Antioch of Syria & Philippi of Macedonia

### Introduction:

- A. Acts 9:31– Our text shows that within a few years, perhaps three or less, there were other churches scattered throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria.
- B. This lesson will center around two churches about which we have some information, Antioch of Syria & Philippi of Macedonia.

## I. The Church At Antioch In Syria.

- A. Their beginning followed the dispersion of the church after the persecutions – Acts 11:19-21.
  - 1. Their preaching was first to Jews, then to Grecians, i.e. Jews under Grecian influence.
    - a. The word may suggest even Gentiles, which we know they had a lot of – Acts 15:23.
- B. Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch – Acts 11:22-24.
- C. Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch to assist – Acts 11:25,26.
  - 1. It is reasonable to assume the services of an Apostle were needed.
  - 2. We later learn there were prophets in the church at Antioch which had not come from Jerusalem.
  - 3. Barnabas and Saul are identified with the church at Antioch – Acts 13:1.
- D. The church at Antioch assembled – Acts 11:26.
- E. The church was favored by the disciples being called Christians first there – cf. Acts 11:26.
- F. The church was benevolent – Acts 11:27-30.
- G. The church at Antioch sent Barnabas and Saul on their first Missionary Journey – Acts 13:1-3.
  - 1. Acts 13:3– They gave their approval and support of this mission.
  - 2. Paul and Barnabas returned to them when their work was completed – Acts 14:26-28.
  - 3. Even after Paul's second missionary journey he returned to Antioch – Acts 18:22.
- H. The church at Antioch was a powerful church.

## II. The Church At Philippi In Macedonia.

- A. Four men, Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke began this work.
  - 1. The first converts; Lydia and her household – Acts 16:14.
  - 2. The Jailer and his household were the next – cf. Acts 16:25-34.
  - 3. It appears that a number of others also responded – Acts 16:40.
- B. Most of what we know about the church at Philippi we learn from the book of Philippians.
  - 1. They were fully organized with Bishops and Deacons – Phil.1:1.
  - 2. They had endured persecution – Phil.1:29,30.
    - a. These persecutions were probably from the Jews – Phil.3:2,3.
  - 3. They had some problems getting along with each other.
    - a. Apparently two women had been in conflict – Phil.4:2,3.
    - b. There was murmuring and disputing – Phil.2:14.
    - c. They were called upon the humble themselves – Phil.2:1-3.
    - d. And to walk by the same rule – Phil.3:15,16; 4:9.
  - 4. They had been benevolent toward Paul.
    - a. They sent to Paul's needs often – Phil.1:5; 4:10,14-18.
    - b. Epaphroditus had delivered their most recent assistance to him in Rome – Phil.2:25; 4:18.
- C. Nothing else is known of this church.
- D. While it was a good church, it had its problems.

### Conclusion:

- A. These churches give us some insight into the growth and development of local churches.
- B. Are you what you ought to be? We can make it much better.