

Christians on Campus
Acts Bible Study
Summer 2020

The Propagation of Christ to the Gentiles through the Corporate Christ

- I. God's desire is for the gospel to be spread to all the nations and to all people, whether Jew or Gentile (1 Timothy 2:4, Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8).
- II. In order to cooperate with God's move, we need to let go of our own concepts or preferences and be willing to not only hear but also carry out God's desire.
- III. God is able to use even seemingly negative situations for the propagation of the gospel and of the churches.

Acts 11:1-30

¹And the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²And when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision disputed with him, ³saying, You went in to men who are uncircumcised and ate with them. ⁴And Peter began, and he explained to them in sequence, saying, ⁵I was in the city of Joppa praying, and I saw in a trance a vision, a certain vessel like a great sheet descending, being let down by four corners out of heaven; and it came unto me. ⁶Looking intently into it, I examined it and saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the reptiles and the birds of heaven. ⁷And I also heard a voice saying to me, Rise up, Peter; slay and eat! ⁸But I said, By no means, Lord, for no common or unclean thing has ever entered into my mouth. ⁹And a voice answered a second time out of heaven, The things that God has cleansed, do not make common. ¹⁰And this occurred three times, and everything was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that moment three men stood at the house in which we were, having been sent from Caesarea to me. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. And these six brothers went with me also; and we entered into the man's house. ¹³And he reported to us how he saw the angel standing in his house and saying, Send men to Joppa and send for Simon, who is surnamed Peter, ¹⁴Who will speak words to you by which you shall be saved, you and all your house. ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as also on us in the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷If therefore God has given to them the equal gift as also to us who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could have forbidden God? ¹⁸And when they heard these things, they became silent and glorified God, saying, Then to the Gentiles also God has given repentance unto life.

¹⁹Those then who were scattered by the tribulation which took place on account of Stephen passed through as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews only. ²⁰But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and spoke also to the Greeks, announcing the Lord Jesus as the gospel. ²¹And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²²And the account concerning them was heard in the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to pass through as far as Antioch, ²³Who, when he arrived and saw the grace of God, rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart; ²⁴for he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a considerable number was added to the Lord. ²⁵And he went forth to Tarsus to search for Saul; ²⁶And when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it happened with them that for a whole year they were gathered in the church and taught a considerable number and that the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Acts 10:28, 34 ²⁸And he said to them, You understand that it is unlawful for a man who is a Jew to join himself to or come near one of another race; yet God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. ³⁴And opening his mouth, Peter said, In truth I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons.

Romans 14:1-6, 10-15

¹Now him who is weak in faith receive, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his considerations. ²One believes that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables. ³He who eats, let him not despise him who does not eat; and he who does not eat, let him not judge him who eats, for God has received him. ⁴Who are you who judge another's household servant? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will be made to stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One judges one day above another; another judges every day alike. Let each be fully persuaded in his own mind. ⁶He who regards that day, regards *it* to the Lord; and he who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who does not eat, does not eat to the Lord, and he gives thanks to God.

¹⁰But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God, ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall openly confess to God." ¹²So then each one of us will give an account concerning himself to God. ¹³Therefore let us judge one another no longer, but rather judge this: not to put a stumbling block or cause of falling before your brother. ¹⁴I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself, except to him who considers something to be unclean; to that man it is unclean. ¹⁵For if because of food your brother is wounded, you no longer walk according to love. Do not destroy by your food that man for whom Christ died.

Romans 15:7

Therefore receive one another, as Christ also received you to the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:14-16

¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity, ¹⁵abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.

Galatians 3:27-28

²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁷There cannot be Jew nor Greek, there cannot be slave nor free man, there cannot be male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Questions:

1. Why did some brothers have a problem with Peter in 11:1-3? What realization did Peter have regarding Gentiles (see Acts 10:28, 34)? How can we apply this in our relationships with other believers (see Rom. 14:1-6, 10-15; Eph. 2:14-16; Gal. 3:27-28)? Has the Lord ever touched you towards your attitude towards other believers?

2. The believers who were scattered by the persecution were the ones who preached the gospel (v. 19). Perhaps we may be considered scattered believers in our current situation. How can we preach the gospel in these days? Share any experiences you may have had.

3. Recall the subject of the book of Acts: The propagation of the resurrected Christ in His ascension, by the Spirit, through the disciples, for the producing of the churches—the kingdom of God. With the help of the maps below, trace the propagation of the gospel through Acts 1:8; 8:1; and 11:19.



THE HOLY LAND IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

