

# LESSON 10

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## THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED TO THE GENTILES (PART 2)

### **PETER CONVINCES THE CRITICS (11:1–18)**

In the conversion of Cornelius and his household (ch. 10), God had to overcome the objections of Peter and the six Jewish witnesses. Since these men had doubts about God accepting Gentiles into the church, we are not surprised that other Jewish Christians were also skeptical—and, therefore, called Peter into question when he returned to Jerusalem.

1. To whom does “those who were circumcised” refer in 11:2?
2. What exactly was the accusation made against Peter?
3. How did Peter show wisdom in answering the accusation?
4. What was the heart of Peter’s defense?
5. With what did Peter compare the events at Cornelius’ house?
6. For what two main reasons is repentance called a gift from God in 11:18?

### **FURTHER PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES (11:19–26)**

Before chapter 11, Luke concentrated on the preaching done in the vicinity of Palestine. Now he noted that, as time went by, members of the church traveled farther and farther, taking the message of Jesus with them. In 11:19–30, Luke’s focus on church activity began shifting from Jerusalem to Antioch. From chapter 13 on, we will see Antioch as Paul’s base of operations for his missionary journeys.

7. Where were the cities of Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and what history is known of them?

8. What was the nature of Antioch's culture that made it an unlikely base for Paul?
9. To whom does "Greeks" refer in 11:20?
10. How was the congregation at Antioch unlike any formed before?
11. How did Barnabas' mission when he heard that Antioch had received the Word differ from that of Peter and John when they heard about Samaria and visited there?
12. What reasons lead us to believe that the apostles did *not* send Barnabas because they thought that the work in Antioch was a questionable situation?
13. Why was Barnabas the ideal person to send to Antioch?
14. Why did Barnabas leave Antioch to find Saul?
15. What is the origin of the word "Christian"?
16. Because of the word "called" in 11:26, from where do we believe the name "Christian" came?

#### **GENTILES HELP JEWS (11:27–30)**

As Barnabas, Saul, and others worked with the new Christians in Antioch, they had visitors from the south. This is the first mention of prophets in the church. The fact that they came from Jerusalem is indicative of the fellowship that existed between the congregations in Jerusalem and Antioch.

17. For what reasons might the congregation in Antioch have felt that their brothers in Jerusalem were in more need than they?
18. What kind of "relief" did the Antioch church send to Jerusalem?
19. What appears to be the New Testament's basis of determining how much a person should give to the Lord's work?
20. To whom did Barnabas and Saul take the relief?