

Theme: It is through grace that the church is gathered and strengthened. That grace is evident even as God builds and strengthens the church through the struggles, sacrifices, sorrows and service of His followers.

### Introduction & Background

#### **I. Good News! (30-35)**

##### A. A Cause for Rejoicing

1. Faith is not based in law, but in grace
2. Gospel is for the world – not just for the Jews.

##### B. A Means to Unity

1. We have *liberty* to partake of everything that God has made/provided.
2. I limit my freedom to maintain peace

##### C. The church was strengthened! (32)

#### **II. Bad News? (36-41)**

##### A. A Great Idea – The “Reunion Tour”

- See how they are doing.
- Need to spend time with them

##### B. A Difficult Breakup

1. Paul and Barnabas seriously divided
  - a. Paul? Apostle to the Gentiles - John Mark deserted them.
  - b. Barnabas – the son of encouragement – Give him a chance.
  - c. “*paraxusmos*” = “a sharp disagreement”  
*paroxysm* = violent action or emotion

##### 2. A matter of trust

- How long does it take to rebuild?
- How is it done? What does it take?

##### 3. “We are not God’s but men like you”

- a. Dear brothers indeed!
- b. A last farewell?

##### C. Providential Rule (& Over-Rule?)

1. What Satan means for evil (disrupt the work, discourage the workers).....

2. ***God means for good!*** Acts 2:23,24; 4:27,28; Genesis 50:20

D. Divide and Conquer

1. Barnabas and Mark –

- a. To Cyprus, retrace their steps across the island
- b. Mark proves himself a faithful servant  
Colossians 4:10; Philemon 23; 2 Timothy 4:11

2. Paul and Silas

- Commended to the work (Silas officially accepted)
- To Syria and Cilicia – where Paul had been working before being called to Antioch by Barnabas (11:25)

E. The church was strengthened! (41)

**III. Surprising News.** (16:1-5)

A. Returning to Lycia (Region)

B. Timothy joins Paul and Silas

- From Lystra – where Paul had been stoned.
- Well spoken of by the brothers
- Useful for the work

C. Timothy is Circumcised!?

- 1. While sharing the letter from the Jerusalem Council!
- 2. No violation of principles Galatians 6:15; Galatians 2:3,5
  - Not *capitulation* to the Jewish Christians but  
*Constrained* by the call of the Gospel!
- 3. Why? Jews would consider him *apostate* (Jewish mom/Grk dad)

D. The Church was strengthened – and grew!

**IV. What News Will You Bring?**

- A. To what lengths will you go to see the church of Jesus Christ strengthened and growing?
- B. How much are you willing to bend/stretch/give up to maintain fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- C. When those around you, or circumstances or situations appear to be “meant for evil” toward you: