

The Early Church and What it Means to Us

Max Barnett

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 11.
- B. There is no doubt that Jesus died and rose from the dead because the early church witnessed it. (I Corinthians 15)
- C. A great persecution broke out in Jerusalem toward the early church after Jesus ascended.
- D. Paul and Barnabas were sent out to encourage the churches abroad because of the persecution.

II. What they did.

- A. They observed the grace of God.
- B. They rejoiced.
- C. They encouraged the church in the midst of suffering.
 - 1. Believers need each other.
 - 2. God hates hard-heartedness. (Revelation 3, 2:4)
 - 3. God wants a person to be whole-hearted.

III. We need to have an eternal perspective.

- A. Every person needs to commit to Jesus Christ in order to be a Christian.
- B. We need to evaluate all of life through this eternal perspective.
- C. A person needs to develop spiritual disciplines such as Scripture memory, Bible reading, prayer, choosing the right friends who are trying to walk with God and being a part of a Christian church or group. (I Timothy 4:7, Proverbs 13:27)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important for believers to be in fellowship with one another regularly? Explain.

2. How have you failed to focus on what is most important in your life? How can you start to make a change in these areas?

3. What disciplines would you like to develop further? How can you go about doing this?
