

The First Church of Antioch (Acts 13:1-3)

The Antioch church is the first church to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. Through this church, a title to a person: “Christian” started. Furthermore, they sent a missionary for the first time. In the book of Acts, chapter 1-7 is build up and revival of a church after Holy Spirit came. Chapter 8-12 shows the expansion of Gospel from Jerusalem to Judah after Stephen’s martyrdom; God called Saul as apostle for the gentiles. Also, showed salvation of gentile Cornelius and his family. From chapter 13 shows process of earnestly spreading the Gospel to Gentiles. The doors to world mission started to open through the Antioch church.

1. Subject of Mission: Holy Spirit. “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them (Acts 13:2) The subject of mission is not us but the Holy Spirit; neither the missionary nor the sending church. “Set apart” means distinguished and predetermined as an Apostle. “Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead (Galatians 1:1) God planned mission and missionary (Paul and Barnabas - dedicated for mission by God in His time) Mission is the first commitment in their ministry.

2. The Antioch church - Worship and Serve the Lord. Church should worship the Lord who owns the church because it was built by the blood of Jesus. Our sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus. As serving God, we should believe the bible as Words of God. Jesus will be revealed by the bible as well as salvation and eternal life. We could not know, meet, realize God by ourselves but only by the Holy Spirit. We should receive the bible from Genesis to Revelation as Words of God. Serving **the Lord means serving the church.** We should serve our church in faith. It will grow when we serve. Holy Spirit ordered to set apart Saul and Barnabas who were most capable leader in the church as missionary. Likewise, we should offer our best(most) time to God not spare (extra) time because God gave us his only Son, Jesus for us. “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9-10)

3. Antioch church: Fasting church. There will be miracles when we fast. Fasting prayer means not only fasting food but also fasting eyes, ears, tongue, body and mind to control and lead our life as holy. Keeping Lord’s day regarded as spiritual fasting because we come before God who is our first priority instead of following worldly pleasure. We could hear voice of Holy Spirit when we fast. “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2) Holy Spirit resides in us. We should listen to voice of Holy Spirit who speaks us directly. Holy Spirit as a Spirit of Jesus, wants to come to us, pray for us, guide us, comfort us, lead us to right way. We should put God in/at the center of our church. It means: the master of us is God. All ownership belongs to God not us. Apostle Paul said whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. We should live a God-centered life because we were made for the glory of God and God will take care of us. We should keep praying and fasting because it will cleanse us from the ugliness and evil of this world.

4. Antioch church: Church of Mission. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:3) They sent off missionary. There are three missions in the church: Mission(Evangelism), education and serving. Mission is the most important. Mission means spread the Love of Jesus - what we received from God. And it is the reason of existence of the church. There always will be change where Gospel goes. We should spread grace and blessing of God to all nations and let them enjoy the right and privilege as children of God. God wants all nations to be saved. “who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, (1Timothy 2:4) “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6) “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”(Acts 4:12) Doing this job is the mission and it is not an option. “Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” (Hebrews 9:27) The church of mission will realize the vision of God by obedience to the commandment of God.

The Rewards for mission Saved people should do missions as a debtor who owes God. And know and receive promised rewards from God. It means God will bless us in this world when we please God. **1. Jesus be with us always** “and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:20) **2. Shining like the stars forever** “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. (Daniel 12:3) **3. Reward** “For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done (Matthew 16:27) **4. Blessing on material** “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.(2 Corinthians 9:6)

Salvation is by faith but rewards by work.