

The Antioch Church (Ac. 11:19-30)

There was an elder that gave a representative at an event and the first thing that he said as he began to pray was 'God how are you?'. When I heard that story I felt that he had such great faith in God. It seems as if he was curious about how God was doing. I do believe that God will give us this great blessing. Today's message is entitled the Antioch church. Antioch church was an important church and played a pivotal role. The Antioch church was the church that was greatly used to begin the first mission. Antioch church was raised up by the lay leaders of the church. It's truly amazing. It's not a church that the apostles raised up. It was a church that had the correct and accurate gospel. It was a church that was very active within evangelism. I believe that God will bless churches like this and rightfully so if we are like this God will give us his great blessings. May God's blessings be upon you at this time. Whoever lives according to the covenant, their life doors will be opened. It is the bible that records and speaks of the covenant. That is why the bible is known as the covenant. The bible records the past covenant and the new covenant. God is the author of the bible and it has great significance of the covenant that he has recorded. As we read the bible we are able to catch on quickly that God desires to testify the covenant through the bible. That is why you must live by the covenant. In other words there are many who are living a religious life that has nothing to do with the covenant. If you live by the covenant then you will live a life that is exactly the same as the bible. Two weeks ago the Sunday message contained the story about prostitute Rahab. She was a prostitute that was looked down upon by many but she chose God's covenant without any hesitation and she did not look back. As a result all the livestock were put to death but it was herself that was able to survive and live. The war broke out and it was to the extent where God commanded them to put everything to death including their livestock. It was not only her that lived, it was her entire family line that lived and survived as well. Last week's Sunday message was the message where the Israelites followed the ark of the covenant. That is how they were able to cross over the Jordan river through the dry ground. It is God's promise that he testifies to us that if you live like this your life will be the same. This is not an average incident that arose. Of course if the bible was a world history book it would be an average incident. Yet, the bible is the covenantal bible. God desires to speak of the covenant that is why he has permitted this incident to arise. God's message is that you must be like Rahab and choose God. God's message is that if you choose the covenant your life will be just like Rahab's. It is God's promise that if you live holding onto the covenant then your life will be like the Israelites that crossed the Jordan river through the dry ground. Those who live by the covenant will see evidence and with that evidence they will stand as a witness. How meaningful is it for you to give the answer to those who are lost without the answer. In other words this is so valuable. That is why you must be this person. Then God will continuously answer you. On the night the Israelites placed the covenantal blood on the doorpost that was when God completely destroyed Satan's kingdom. All the first born

sons of the Egyptians including their livestock were all put to death. God already knew all the first born sons of each household including their livestock. For example, if there are ten cattle in a household God already knows which one was the first born and God will put that cow to death. It's truly amazing. For example, there is a household that has ten pigs then God already knows the first born and he will put that pig to death. God already knows everything and that is exactly what God has done. When did God do that? When they placed the covenantal blood on their doorpost. May you apply the covenantal blood on your life as well. This is the fundamental prayer. Don't be discouraged because things are not working out for you, for this is the only answer God has given to you. Even if this answer comes or not you must apply this covenantal blood to yourself. According to God's time when he seems that it is so fitting that is when the answer will be given to you. Undoubtedly it will take place. On that night when they placed the blood they were set free from slavery from Egypt. If you take a look at the bible even one sentence that is the everlasting promise and the word of God but God repeatedly speaks of this in the bible. If you confess at this moment that Jesus is your Christ you are applying the precious blood of Jesus Christ of the cross to your life. We are living in the age of the gospel; it's much easier for us now. All you have to do is simply confess the gospel, in the past they would have to kill the lamb and give it as a sacrificial offering to the Lord. How thankful are you that Christ died for you instead.

1. The Gospel

The spiritual content that the Antioch church held to was the gospel and evangelism. Those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose because of Stephen traveled and were able to establish the Antioch church. Stephen was stoned to death and at that moment they were all scattered and that was when the true work began. Naturally they scattered and left to Jerusalem. There were many who went to Antioch. That was when the church was established and the Gentile evangelization arose. This was all God's plan. Why was God with them? It was because they held to the gospel. It is because they were persecuted because of the gospel. They were the ones who escaped and were waiting for the chance to go and save all with the gospel. To that extent God allowed evangelism and the church to take place. In your own personal life you must live for the sake of the gospel. You must live by the covenant. That must take place in the church even more. What the church must always emphasize is the gospel. If the church does not do anything but only testify the gospel the God will save the entire world because of that church. That evidence is recorded in the history of Israel. For the Israelites were God's church and the entire nation was the church of God. when the Israelites were able to restore the gospel and the covenantal blood no one was able to defeat them. Also it says in chapter 1 verse 15 that all of them were looked down upon. This was the age of Solomon. To that extent they were defeated and invaded and they had no choice but to give all their belongings to them. King Hezekiah was a person of the covenant but their enemy of 185,000 soldiers invaded them but on that night all the soldiers were put to death. It was the King that survived the war but

when he returned back home his two sons killed him. It's truly outstanding. When their enemies invaded, they fought with each other and killed themselves. The bible records this. Why would the enemies fight against each other when they came to invade the Israelites? It's not a huge argument that they even had but they killed each other with their own swords. This is the covenantal message that God relays. God's message is that once you hold onto the covenant, you do not have to fight against your enemies because they would be defeated as they fight with each other to death. It was Samuel who gathered the people for the Dothan Movement. At that moment when they gave the sacrificial offering to the Lord, the Philistines invaded them like fools. They were put to death as God poured down hail. It is a tremendous message. It is God's message and His covenant so must always hold to it. The Bible is filled with such evidence and miracles. It is not only the Bible that holds that. Even within the believers, there are many stories that they tell that are similar to those written in the Bible. In conclusion, the church must restore the Gospel. Then, they will receive continuous miracles in their lives. It is to the extent that no one can hinder or attack you. It is a summary that those built on the church on the rock, the gates of Hell can never prevail against them. The Lord God says that He will give the kingdom of Heaven which is the power of the throne for you must enjoy that. This is applicable for all believers including the church. It is the people who gather to be the church. May you hold to this covenant once again. For those who restore the covenant and live by it, their lives will be like this. The problem is the fact that you lack faith in this. The problem is that you always listen to it and get used to it. May you come to the send for God will be at work and open your spiritual eyes. He will allow this to take place in your life. May that blessing be upon you. It was God's plan to establish the Antioch Church because He was working upon them. This is because they were people of the Gospel. All those who gathered had full conviction of what happened on the Mount of Calvary. They were the ones who know that it is only the precious blood of Jesus Christ that saves all. It is so simple. The three offices of Christ are the Gospel. They knew that it is the precious blood of Jesus Christ that would save all. It is the blood that will crush the serpent's head. They knew that if they held onto hits, they could enjoy their heavenly background on earth as well. You must know the Gospel to which this is the mystery for God to work upon your life. There are times when you take the three offices lightly but it is a serious matter. If Christ did not die on the cross and complete the three offices of Christ, then there is no hope for mankind on earth. May you truly restore the Gospel at this time. This is all you have to do. There is nothing else. The precious blood of Jesus Christ will set you free from all curses in your life. Even if you lack faith, you struggle to hold onto it. That is the spiritual battle. It is Satan who deceives you to not believe in it. You have the heart to believe it. The precious blood of Jesus Christ may not seem like much to you, but it has crushed the serpent's head and worked for the Israelites when they put the blood on their doorposts. So when you hold to the precious blood of Jesus Christ, you can meet God for 24 hours and enjoy that He is with you. It is simple even for those that are uneducated. They can

come to know the Gospel and receive salvation. That is the Gospel. The Gospel is so simple, but the matter lies on whether or not you believe it. If you lack to believe in it, the method given to you is to confess it. Whether you believe it or not, confess it. One day, God will give you a time to believe it. If you are not able to confess it, write it down. In the end, you must believe in this. You must believe that it is Jesus Christ that will liberate you from all sins and curses. What else would you believe in? This is the answer for he has died on the cross for this sake. For those who have received salvation but believe in something else, it is a religion. It is very simple. Restore the Gospel. If you speak of other things, it is because you have not restored the Gospel upon yourself. If you restore the Gospel, it becomes very simple. If you lack to hold to the Gospel, the believers have no choice but to live a complicated life and to speak so much. They have no choice but to ask God so many questions instead of having complete victory and conquest with the Gospel. I bless you in the name of the Lord that you will restore the Gospel.

2. Evangelism

The Antioch Church played a pivotal role. The first mission arose through the Antioch Church. They stood as a platform for Apostle Paul's mission field. It is so amazing that the Antioch Church was raised by the lay leaders and Church officers. It is truly amazing. The Antioch Church was not established by Apostle Paul, Barnabus or Peter. The start to it all was after the persecution of Stephen. It is recorded in Verse 20. "But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists." This is the start of the Antioch Church. That is God's time schedule for them which is why the great works arose and are written in Verse 21. "And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord." Most times, many say that the Antioch Church was the lay leader movement and that is the truth. Yet, it is not an average thing, but it was the lay leaders who possessed the Gospel. We all possess the Gospel. This is such a historical work that God has given to us to know if this Gospel. There has been no one to explain the Gospel like this. It is because it is so centered on the field and touches the fundamental points that many should know. Many times, the evangelists testify that people must know the Gospel, but they do not explain the fundamental points. Is there anyone in church history that pinpointed the three fundamental problems? The three fundamental problems have already taken place and no mankind can handle this or change it all around. There are not many people that can testify that Jesus is the Christ, the answer to all. They must know who Jesus is. We may take it so lightly of who Jesus Christ is because we hear it often but you must not do that. There is not a theologian that has solved it all for us. Many will testify that when you believe in Jesus, you will gain salvation but not many say that it will solve all of your life problems. To be honest, there aren't many that emphasize the 6 states of a nonbeliever. Remnants, may you know this well. When you hold to this as your covenant, great works will arise. This is the answer to your life. Hold to this, and you will come to a conclusion to it. Don't let it pass by, but hold it as your answer. Your re-

sentiment towards other people is because you are not holding to this answer. However, if you hold to it then you will live even if everyone perishes. Even all of the livestock were put to death but you will live because you hold to this as your answer. Take a look at Noah. At the time, they all lived in the ark. Upon all of the believers this is the answer. May you hold to this as your answer because this is what God gave to you. Let us look at Rahab's story. In God's perspective, if there was a prostitute like Rahab who held to the Gospel as her covenant, your life would be overturned like her life. Please hold onto it. There are many that lack to hold onto it which is why they speak so many words. To that extent, we are such tremendous individuals. May you open your spiritual eyes to see who you are as well as look at this age. May you partake in evangelism. To be honest, many say that evangelism is difficult, but it is not. It is the time for you to give the answer to others. You must make the time before God and give your offering to the Lord. If you do not devote yourself you will lack to be strengthened by God. For example, one individual says that they must pray once a day to pray in the church. But that person catches a cold to the point in which they might die. However, they are determined and come to church to pray. That person will be strengthened. If that person changes their mind to avoid coming to church because of their sickness, they will not be strengthened. That is the heart of devotion. Just because the person comes to church to pray, would they die? No they would not. So you must give your heart to the Lord. This is an urgent matter of the world, we should not hold to the Gospel on our own without sharing it to others. When you have the chance, try to share the Gospel to others. If they have interest, explain the Gospel and have them receive Christ in their heart. When you meet a present believer ask if they know who Christ is. You must not be deceived by having them name their church that they attend. Do not be deceived, but ask if they know who Christ is. Ask them if they know what Christ has done for them. If they do not know the correct answer, that is when you may plant the Gospel upon them. Why do we have the heart to gather the pastors and missionaries in America and have conferences? It is because it is in an urgent state for the pastors in America. Many fail to have the depth of the Gospel in their hearts. Naturally, they lack to have evidence upon their lives. Because they lack of this, they lack to stand as a witness when they give their sermon. It is a witness that can truly say that this is the answer. They should be the one that could testify that Jesus Christ is the answer to be liberated from all curses and sin. It is the pastor that must first come out of the curses and problems through Jesus Christ. If the pastor only speaks of the theological point of view, they are standing before the believers as their teacher. For the believers and Church officers that raised up the Antioch Church, it was different. They truly knew that it was Jesus Christ who had resurrected. How can you have the sure conviction of this? You must hold to the covenant and challenge your problems with the covenant. Not to the point to which you simply ask God to solve the problem for you, but hold to the covenant and challenge your problems. The content of the Antioch Church was the Gospel and evangelism. The Antioch Church was one of the representative churches in the Bible. There were many churches recorded in

the Bible, but they were the platform Church. Our church must be like this as well. It is far better for us to do something instead of staying put and not doing anything. Not only for the Church, your content must be the Gospel as this must be your platform. Evangelism must be your life spiritual weapon. Satan will continuously attack you but you must bind Satan. The fundamental weapon to that is Jesus Christ who is the Gospel. That is the spiritual weapon. The realistic weapon to fight against Satan is evangelism. These are the two weapons you must hold. The field weapon is evangelism. It is not that you simply go out and evangelize, but this must be your covenant. You must go and save others with this alone and bind the work of Satan. That is the evidence of evangelism. It is not spiritual and realistically, but you must bind the work of Satan in your field. Simply testify the Gospel. That is evangelism. You will live a life of victory and conquest. Rightfully so, you may be able to beg to God, but God did not create you to beg to Him. For those who desire to have victory and conquest, you must hold surely to the two weapons of the Gospel and evangelism. This is God's absolute plan for those who do this as they will have sure victory and conquest. May you be the one that deeply enjoys the Gospel. To that extent, you must be for evangelism. Not to the extent that you know the Gospel and enjoy it by yourself but towards evangelism. For example, if you are in the wrong, you should apologize. You are at no fault, but you should apologize first. It is not right of you to spiritually kill someone because of your own pride. You must be able to go to the person who has done wrong to you and apologize for God will be very touched by what you have done. God would thank you and wonder how you knew His heart and yearn for that. God knows that you were not at fault. God knows the first born of the livestock as well. God knows the first born of the cows, chicken, and even the dogs. God knows everything so do not block the doors of evangelism. Put yourself down and serve yourself for the sake of others. If you are able to do that first, God will give you the blessing to which the person of wrongdoing will go up to you and thank you as well. That is why you must be the Antioch Church. That is why the words of others will only block the doors of evangelism if you are deceived. You must be the Antioch church that saves the Americas and Latin America. You must be the church that holds the spiritual content and the platform. You must be the one that realistically holds to the Gospel. You must know the evangelism strategy written in the book of Acts and hold to it as your own. This is biblical evangelism. Many believers know evangelism by simply receiving salvation. Many do not know the importance of testifying the Gospel to save the dying souls, but it is only to the extent to which one may be saved. You must be an evangelist like Apostle Paul to have an evangelism system to raise the disciples. I do believe that once you hold onto the covenant of Jesus Christ, this work will be upon you. May you be the one that truly enjoys the depths of the Gospel and evangelism.