

man). Eph. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God. (The letter to the Philippians an exception). Phil. 1:1. Col. 1:1. I Thes. another exception. So is II Thess. I Tim. 1:1, II Tim. 1:1, Titus 1:1. Philemon is an exception. The burden of his soul was to prove his right to be not one of the twelve but an apostle at all.

As long as the apostolic leadership was at Jerusalem, Paul was rejected by the church. He went out of circulation for three years and stayed in Arabia waiting for orders from the Spirit and biding his time. It was not until the church at Antioch needed a man that Paul had a chance to prove his worth. Like many today, he was rejected because of his stand years ago against Christ.

Paul owes much of what he became to Barnabas. It was he who presented Saul to the church at Jerusalem, Acts 9 and it was he who in Acts 11:25 went and brought Paul and presented him to the church at Antioch. Many of us who are prominently known today, owe our introduction to some unknown Barnabas who gave us our first chance. As you ministers study with your group today, tell from your own experience how a Barnabas helped you to get started in the ministry, or as a teacher or any other office which came to you because you were thought of by someone else. In my own life (the writer's) I owe all to the unknown Barnabases like, N. Smith, A. Chandler, L. C. Crafton, T. M. Boykins, A. T. Lomax, and H. W. Stewart. In education I revere the name of J. J. Starks of South Carolina.

#### Paul Endorsed by the Church of Antioch

Acts 13 opens a new chapter in the Christian movement. The lead-

ership here changes from Peter to Paul, from Jerusalem to Antioch. Here the Holy Ghost makes a selection, not of one of two men, set forth by the church, but of two men, not of equal importance as far as work was concerned, but men whose polarity was far apart and who were to go on a special mission of evangelization, kingdom extension or missionary enterprizing. Why was Saul or Paul so long getting started? In Acts 9 we learned that he was a chosen vessel to the Gentiles but instead of going to them, he tries to win his fellow Jewish people to no avail. Rejected at Jerusalem, without the expressed approval of the apostles, he goes out from Antioch under the orders of the Holy Ghost. He is apostle fourteen when he should have been among the twelve. Take time here to make a list of the reasons why Paul was so late getting started on his work among the Gentiles.

The endorsement by the church at Antioch and being sent forth by this church meant a new day for world evangelization and redemption. It meant a breaking with customary bound Jerusalem, laden with traditions and Judaism. It meant a turning to the Gentile world. Paul was the best man God could find for this task. Acts 13:44-52 informs us of the great decision to give his time and talent to the Gentiles. Here he breaks with his past and becomes the counterpart of the gospel dispensation. Peter symbolizes the gospel of the circumcision, while Paul symbolizes the gospel of the uncircumcision. Here are two leading apostles standing and preaching on opposite sides.

#### Tallest of All

In education Paul was the tallest and most astute thinker the New

Testament mentions. As a preacher he has no equals in the annals of world thinking. As a writer he wrote more books than all the others put together. As a worker, he did more than any one man that ever lived. He alone interprets the meaning of the life and death of Jesus. Some of the greatest inspiration ever dripped from the pen of a writer, pours forth in copious showers from his pen. Take a map and trace his missionary journeys. He gave the church a world view of the Christian way of life. More books have been written about him than were written by all the other thirteen apostles.

Was he without faults? No. He was full of temper. He parted with

his best friend Barnabas. He rebuked Peter to his face. Read Galatians 2. Here you see him as he is when he is aroused.

He was a man of great courage and daring, fearing nothing, not even death. Three great forces converged upon him, viz., the Cross of Christ, his miraculous conversion and salvation by grace. His books are inexhaustible in great truths. His spirit pervaded everything he touched. He was a veritable dynamo ever giving life and light to the Cause of Christ.

#### Debate

Resolve that Paul was greater than Peter.

#### Study XII

June 22, 1952

## Training in Prayer, Humility and Faith

Luke 5:15-17; 6:12-13; Mark 1:35; Luke 22:44

Luke 11:1-4; Matt. 6:9-13

#### Patterns of Prayers

If the twelve were praying men, we have no example of their prayers. When they were converted, as we know it, there is no record. From what we discussed in the other studies, and what we have learned from research, they were common ordinary unlettered working men who had no previous training in the art of prayer, except the few that had been with John the Baptist. Among the first things that Jesus had to do, was to show them the importance of prayer in living the life of service. Communion with God, was to be the secret of their success as world

preachers. They had not learned how to pray effectively. Like us, they called words but they were void of expectant desire; they were naked cold words uttered without feeling for what they prayed. Jesus noted that they were minute prayers who emphasized postures more than they did mental concentration. There is a difference between saying your prayers or a prayer and praying fervently, longingly and persistently. There is much to be learned from a study of the prayers prayed by Jesus. He withdrew from the crowd and went into the silence of the wilderness and prayed. Luke 5:15.