

Acts 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch.
And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Analysis

The name 'Christians' (Greek 'Christianoi,' followers of Christ) first applied at Antioch captures believers' core identity in Christ. Whether a term of derision or neutral description, believers embraced it, accepting identification with their crucified Lord. This Gentile church's one-year teaching ministry under Barnabas and Saul established the pattern of sustained discipleship.

Historical Context

Antioch in Syria (not Antioch in Pisidia) became Christianity's first major Gentile center around AD 42-43. This cosmopolitan city provided ideal launching point for world mission. The disciples being 'called Christians' here first occurs in Gentile context.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the name 'Christian' signify about believers' primary identity and loyalty?
2. How important is sustained teaching ministry for establishing strong churches?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εὗρων αὐτοὺς ἤγαγεν αὐτοὺς εἰς Ἀντιοχείαν
And when he had found him he brought him unto Antioch
G2532 G2147 G846 G71 G846 G1519 G490

ἐγένετο δὲ αὐτοὺς ἐνιαυτὸν ὅλον
it came to pass And him year that a whole
G1096 G1161 G846 G1763 G3650

συναχθῆναι ἐν τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ καὶ διδάξαι ὄχλον
they assembled themselves in the church And taught people
G4863 G1722 G3588 G1577 G2532 G1321 G3793

ἱκανὸν χρηματίσαι τε πρῶτον ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ τοὺς
much were called And first in Antioch G3588
G2425 G5537 G5037 G4412 G1722 G490

μαθητὰς Χριστιανούς
the disciples Christians
G3101 G5546

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 4:16 (References Christ): Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Acts 26:28 (References Christ): Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Acts 14:27 (Parallel theme): And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Ephesians 3:15 (Parallel theme): Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

1 Corinthians 12:12 (References Christ): For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:17 (References Christ): For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

1 Corinthians 14:23 (Parallel theme): If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

1 Corinthians 11:18 (Parallel theme): For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: