

Acts 14:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there they abode long time with the disciples.

Analysis

And there they abode long time with the disciples—After completing their first missionary journey (Acts 13-14), Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch (διέτριβον, dietribon, 'they spent time') with the church that had originally commissioned them. This extended stay (χρόνον οὐκ ὀλίγον, chronon ouk oligon, 'not a little time'—likely a year or more) was strategic: it allowed them to disciple new believers, strengthen the church, and report on God's work among the Gentiles.

This verse bridges the end of the first missionary journey with the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), where the issue of Gentile salvation without circumcision would be definitively addressed. The phrase emphasizes the importance of **remaining with disciples** after evangelism—church planting was never merely about conversions, but about establishing mature communities of faith.

Historical Context

This takes place around AD 49 in Syrian Antioch, the third largest city in the Roman Empire and the first major center of Gentile Christianity. Paul and Barnabas had just returned from their groundbreaking mission to Cyprus and Asia Minor (modern Turkey), during which they faced persecution but saw many Gentiles come to faith. The extended stay in Antioch set the stage for the Jerusalem Council that would determine the future of Gentile inclusion in the church.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Paul and Barnabas's decision to 'abode long time' challenge modern missions strategies that prioritize rapid expansion over deep discipleship?
2. What role does accountability to a sending church (Antioch) play in maintaining healthy missionary work?
3. In what ways might you be tempted to move on to new ministries before adequately consolidating and discipling those you've already reached?

Interlinear Text

διέτριβον	δὲ	ἐκεῖ	χρόνον	οὐκ	ὀλίγον	σὺν	τοῖς
they abode	And	there	time	long	G3641	with	G3588
G1304	G1161	G1563	G5550	G3756		G4862	

μαθηταῖς

the disciples

G3101

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:26 (Parallel theme): 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.

