



THE BARNABAS FACTOR

DYNAMICS OF CHARACTER

“FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FAITH” (Acts 11:19-30)

I. PERSECUTION AND PERSUASION (Acts 11:19-21)

- A. The scattering of grace (v. 19)
- B. Expanding the good news (v. 20)
- C. The power of the message (v. 21)

“God does not offer us a way out of the testings of life. He offers us a way through, and that makes all the difference.” —W. T. Purkiser

II. GRACE AND ENCOURAGEMENT (11:22-24)

- A. Barnabas' promotion (v. 22)
- B. Barnabas' personality (v. 23)
- C. Barnabas' power (v. 24)



Ruins of Cyprus

“One motivation is worth ten threats, two pressures, and six reminders.” —Paul Sweeney

III. TEAMWORK AND TEACHING (11:25, 26)

- A. Rendezvous in Tarsus (v.25)
- B. The Antioch Bible Institute (v. 26a)
- C. The banner of Christ (v. 26b)

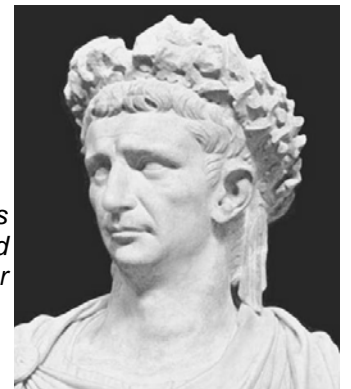
“It is too bad that anything so obvious should need to be said at this late date, but from all appearances, we Christians have about forgotten the lesson so carefully taught by Paul: God's servants are not to be competitors, but co-workers.” —A. W. Tozer

IV. PROPHECY AND PROVISION (11:27-30)

- A. The mysterious prophet (vs. 27-28a) [note Acts 21:10, 11]
- B. In the reign of Emperor Claudius (v. 28b)
- C. The bonding of charity (vs. 29, 30)

“Realism is idealism that has been through the fire and got purified; cynicism is idealism that has been through the fire and got burned. Now whether you get burned or purified is not determined by the intensity of the heat but by the malleability of your spirit.” —Warren W. Wiersbe

Emperor Claudius



FOR CONSIDERATION...

1. In analyzing the dynamics of Barnabas' early testimony, do you think it was based on his character of goodness, spirituality and faith? (v. 24). Or were these *effects* of a dedicated will?
2. What does Barnabas' response to search out Saul of Tarsus say about his strength of character? Why might there have been hesitation or apprehension?
3. We might wonder why the Lord allowed intense persecution to fall so soon on the newly-formed church. Discuss martyred Hugh Latimer's statement: *“Wherever you see persecution, there is more than a probability that truth is on the persecuted side.”* Do you agree or disagree?