

## **God's Kingdom: Family Where People Are Nurtured & Encouraged – Part 2**

**May 15, 2011 \* Bethel Baptist Church \* Tim Davis**

**Acts 11:25-30**

### **There**

1. The Lord used Barnabas & Saul to create an environment of Christian spiritual growth (a spiritual nursery for the Antioch Gentiles who had recently been born again). vv.25-26
2. The Lord chose a nurturing church environment to bless with His Word (prophets). v.27 “During this time”
3. The Lord used Christian prophets from Jerusalem to encourage & challenge the Antioch Christians to grow up in Christ (think & act maturely). vv.27-28
4. The Antioch Christians showed growing maturity by taking care of their spiritual parents (the Believers in Jerusalem). vv.29-30
  1. They helped willingly, not under compulsion from outsiders. “The disciples...decided” v.29
  2. They helped thankfully, lovingly & thoughtfully, for those whom God had used to bring hope to them. “the brothers living in Judea” v.29
  3. They helped personally, not in competition with others. “each according to his ability” v.29
  4. They helped corporately, as a family. “*their* gift” v.30
  5. They helped generously, not expecting to be repaid. “*their gift*” v.30
  6. They helped carefully by sending their gift *to* those whom they could trust (the elders of the Jerusalem church) *by way of* those whom they could trust (Barnabas & Saul). v.30

### **Here**

1. Work hard to create an environment of Christian spiritual growth wherever you are – for yourself, & for others.
2. Seek to be encouraged & challenged by God's Word every day.
3. Nurture Christian maturity by servicing & giving like the Christians in Antioch; like Christ at Calvary.