BE EXALTED ABOVE THE HEAVENS, O GOD, LET YOUR GLORY BE ABOVE ALL THE EARTH



Getting it right!! Label on T-shirt for one of the teams Bible Bowl 2021 Christ's Church, Bozeman, MT

"His parents answered [the Pharisees] and said, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know, or who opened his eyes, we do not know.'" John 9:20



Pictures from the Prophets"



Question of the week:

When one of the descendants of Goliath tried to kill David in battle (and the men said that David was too old to go to battle any more), Abishai the son of Zeruiah struck the Philistine down. Who was Zeruiah?

Last week's question: Why did Jesus call His commandment a "new commandment"? Answer: It was an upgrade from the old commandment "Love your neighbor as yourself" to loving others as much as Jesus loves them (John 13:34).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: (LOTS OF PEOPLE AT OH AND BADLANDS FC'S)

| Bible School – 58 | Wednesday Night (6/6) — 88 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Morning Assembly – 80 | Butte Lord's Day – 19 |
| Evening Assembly – 39 | GF Lord's Day – 32,54, Wed 39 |



Acts Alive ...

First Called Christians

Those early Christians really wanted to get the word out. What is powerfully significant in the inspired history of the book of Acts is the tremendous number of people who got deeply involved in spreading the word. As soon as they heard, they started preaching and teaching, and the word of the cross moved across the land like wildfire, so much so that Jerusalem was replaced by Antioch as being the center of the movement.

"So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews

alone. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began speaking to the Greeks also*, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord" (Acts 11:19-21). At first, Jewish resistance to associating with Gentiles prevented the Word from going to them. But with God's opening the door through Peter, and Jewish disciples of Christ from areas distant from Jerusalem being less structured by tradition, Gentiles were now preached to, and they proved receptive to the message.

With large numbers of the Gentiles pouring into the congregation at Antioch of Syria, the teaching and preaching leadership needed help. Therefore the church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas, the son of encouragement, as their apostle (apostle of the church, *not* an apostle of Jesus Christ) to the congregation in Antioch. Once again is written: "And *considerable numbers* were brought to the Lord" (Acts 11:24).

Barnabas also needed some help, and knew someone who needed to help. "And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught

considerable numbers."

But there was a problem "pigeon-holing" this movement now. Earlier, because the people were all basically Jewish, who believed that a dead Rabbi named Jesus had come back to life and was thus proven to be the *Messiah*, they were called *disciples of Christ*. With all the Gentiles flooding the gates of the new movement, it could no longer be considered a Jewish movement, and a new name was required. "And the disciples God's great name for His people is *Christian*!

were first called *Christians* at Antioch!" (Acts 11:26). Paul and Barnabas, both inspired men, were the ones who put this label on saints from mixed backgrounds. This was prophesied by Isaiah: "The nations [Gentiles] will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by *a new name*, which *the mouth of the Lord will designate*" (Isaiah 62:2).

A new name, for a new movement! Jews and Gentiles, with the middle wall of partition broken down, were made into one new body by the blood of Christ, moving and working together, united in spirit, intent on one purpose! These zealous brethren not only continued to speak of the Christ and His salvation, but they also assisted the brethren. When a famine came upon the land during the reign of Emperor Claudius, the congregation in Antioch (consisting of many who were Gentile in origin) assisted their poor brethren in Judea. "And in proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief to the brethren living in Judea. And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders" (Acts 11:29.30).

The name *Christian* marks one as *owned by Christ!* No wonder that later the apostle Peter would say, "If anyone suffers as a *Christian*, let him not feel ashamed, but *in that name* let him glorify God" (I Peter 4:16). God's great name for His people is *Christian*—not Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, or any other man-made concoction.

They were first called Christians in Antioch because the movement's reaching the Gentiles was so widespread. Let's follow Antioch's example, and with full reliance upon the Lord, make it happen that way in our generation!