

BARNABAS

He was a Levite by birth; His surname was Joseph; He was from the island of Cyprus.

He was an early convert to Christianity.

He is described as "a good man full of the Holy Spirit and faith".

He spent several years working with the Apostle Paul (cf. Acts)

He is mentioned in 1Co, Gal. Col.

He was kind-hearted: known as "Son of consolation/encouragement"

This man known as Barnabas, without a doubt, was an "faithful follower."

By looking at his life, we learn what it means to be "faithful"

(Examples "flesh out" abstract qualities, i.e., "be kind.)

HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN

Sold property to aid needy brethren. Act.4:36-37

Faith accompanied with works. Jam.2:14-17

Do good especially to "household of faith". Gal.6:10

Benevolent.

(Can't love someone's soul, without being concerned with their "life.")

Spoke up on behalf of Paul. Act.9:26-27

Vouchsafed for brother.

Had knowledge that would solve problem. Pro.3:27

Spoke up when needed; helped.

Labored to build up a new congregation. Act.11:20-26

Encouraged and taught members.

Encouraged and taught others. Heb.10:24

Helped carry a contribution for relief of brethren in Judea. Act.11:27-29

Involved in the physical aspects of work.

Not just a doer, but a leader.

Performed his allotted task.

(Someone must "wait on tables" [Act.6] and wash the dishes!)

Sent, with Paul, to preach among the nations. Act.13:2-3

Carried out the "great commission." (On Paul's first missionary journey)

When sent, he went.

Sent with Paul to Council at Jerusalem. Act.15:1-2,12

Stood firm against corruption of Gospel.

Stood firm in doctrinal matters.

Selected to carry letter from Jerusalem. Act.15:22,30

His reputation as "son of encouragement" the basis for selection?

May our activity so earn us a similar reputation, so as to qualify for Lord's work.

Differed with Paul concerning Mark. Act.15:36-39

Had sharp disagreement over Mark, but maintained respect for each other.

(Later references in N.T. indicate such. 2Ti.4:11, Phl.24)

Keep disagreements from alienating himself from other brethren.

Disagreements between sincere members should not, must not, lead to alienation.

Carried away with Peter's hypocrisy. Gal.2:11-13

Not perfect, he is influenced to do wrong.

Carried away by influential member; swept along with the majority.

MEMBERS LIKE BARNABAS ARE A GREAT ASSET TO THE CHURCH.

Full of faith; active in work; concerned about others.

May each of us strive to be an asset in the Lord's church! A faithful member!!