

Homework Assignment: Take some time to share your stories from your assignment last week.

Evidence

4/22/18

I. Paradigm Shifts

A. Paradigm that dramatically changed the world.

1. Earth was not flat, invention of the lightbulb, Wright brothers successful flight, Facebook

Once a paradigm shift happens, there is no going back!

B. The Book of Acts is a paradigm shift

1. For 1500 years, salvation belonged only to the Jews

2. Something that has been in place for 1500 years does not change easily

C. Salvation of Cornelius house and the converts in Antioch upset the apple cart.

II. Antioch (300 miles north of Jerusalem)

A. Acts 11:19 Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews.

1. Only preached to the Jews at first

B. Acts 11:20-21 However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.

1. It was at Antioch the believers were first called Christians.

III. What does it mean to be a Christian?

A Christian is someone who exchanges their beliefs ABOUT God for a relationship WITH God.

It was the outside world that called them Christians, not the church world.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the effects of some paradigm shifts in history. Can you share a story of a paradigm shift in your life?

2. Why was it so hard for the Jews to accept the fact that Christ came to save all mankind?

3. Describe a belief you once held on to but now changed. How difficult was it for you to do so?

4. What can you learn about the spread of the Gospel? Was it automatic? Was it forced? Where did it spread? How did it spread?

5. How would you describe being a Christian to a non-Christian? Don't use Christian language or theological arguments.

6. What evidence do you give to others that you are a Christian?