

1. CHRISTIANITY DEVELOPED A NEW SPIRIT OF BENEFICENCE IN THE PEOPLE. Acts 11:29. The beneficence was:

1. INDIVIDUAL

1. "EVERY MAN." There was not one who did not contribute something.

(1) The new love they had glowed in every heart, ..N_ot just a few.

(2) The new love they had found expression in the gift of every hand.

2. PROPORTIONATE "Every man according to his ability!"

1. False standard among men:

(1) It was not according to what some one else did.

(2) It was not according to what other people expected.

(3) They did not measure themselves by themselves. 2 Cor. 10:12

(4) Their giving at that time was in keeping with what Paul said about fifteen years after this time. 2 Cor. 9:7

no preaching so eloquent as that

3. IT WAS PROMPT "Then the brethren determined to send relief." *which sounds out*

1. Had they been characterized by the selfishness of our present day they would have said:

(1) Let us see first how severe the famine (it was to come over the entire world) is going to be with us? Our neighbors.

(2) If we see that we have anything to spare we will send it to our more distant brethren *from whole hearted benevolence*

4. IT WAS JUDICIOUS. They arranged for its distribution "Sent it to the hands of elders."

1. They were not merely willing to share their good with their impoverished brethren at Judea.

2. They were willing to share their salvation with all who would accept it.

3. Their hands reached across the seas to bring others, Gentiles as well as Jews, to the One whose name they would henceforth bear. So it *should be today.*

PREACHED AT OZONA, TEXAS SUNDAY MORNING JANUARY 6, 1962

PREACHED AT OZONA, TEXAS SUNDAY MORNING JANUARY 6, 1962