

of facts which must prove of essential use to us in the study of the topics before our minds.

We meet with Paul and Barnabas at Antioch in Syria, where there were many teachers and helpers, Acts. xiii. 1. The Holy Spirit indicates to the brethren that these two men should be sent out as workmen to evangelize. Faithful to the inspired message, they "fasted and prayed, laid their hands upon them, and sent them away." It ought to be noted here that this formal appointment did not impart talent, learning, spirituality, discretion; nor any kindred fitness for their work as general labourers to convert men, form them into churches, set these churches in order, and watch over them subsequently: for at least Paul had laboured in the work of the Lord in gathering men into the fold previously to this date. But mark: Paul had been called to the work by the Lord in person, and his labours in evangelizing had been hitherto in a manner individual labours. So soon therefore as a Gentile church has the requisite age, fitness, and standing to send out chosen men to preach the word, Paul's labours are henceforth to be no longer of an individual character, but connected with the church. His formal separation or ordination was by fasting, prayer, and the laying on of hands. Barnabas had been commissioned by the church in Judea, Acts xi. 22, but his authority seems to have been that of a teacher to build up the church at Antioch. He therefore (with Paul) is set apart by fasting, prayer, and imposition of hands.

These ordained men first travel to Selucia, a city west of Antioch at the mouth of the Orontes river—on which river Antioch itself was situated, which, anciently, was one of the first class cities. From there they took ship and availed themselves of the Mediætræan to visit Cyprus, the isle of Barnabas' nativity, Acts iv. 36. They traverse the whole island, beginning at Salamis on the east and ending at Paphos on the west. The narrative giving us these particulars is very concise, and we are not informed how long these preachers were in Cyprus travelling and labouring. They finally set sail from Paphos and make their way by sea and land to Perga, province of Pamphylia, Asia Minor. They are next found far north near the mountains of Phrygia, in the city of Antioch, province of Pisidia. "The word of the Lord was published throughout all that region" by Paul and Barnabas, indicating that considerable time had been spent in these parts. Persecution eventually drove them to Iconium, some distance south east of Antioch in Pisidia. "Long time abode they speaking boldly in the Lord" in that section, Acts