Acts 11:29-30

Moral Action and God's Providence

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The Church Takes Action

Acts 11:29-30 (NASB)
And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

- Keeping a good relationship between other churches and Jerusalem was important
- The world is hostile to the church so Christians must care for one another

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Pagans and False Religion

1Corinthians 8:5 (NASB)
For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords. . .

- Now in Antioch, there is even more paganism
- The pagans were known for magic, fatalism, and polytheism
- The gospel confronts this with the truth of God's sovereign rule over His universe

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Providence And Monotheism

1Corinthians 8:6 (NASB)

yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

- The church spread to pagan territories by God's providence after Jesus revealed His moral will (see Luke 24:46, 47; Acts 1:8)
- Luke/Acts begins in Jerusalem and ends in Rome; this shows how God provided and spread Messianic salvation
- See CIC Issue 113 on providence

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Christ: Creator and Sustainer of All

Colossians 1:16, 17 (ESV)

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- See also Hebrews 1:3a (upholds all things)
- Ephesian 1:11 uses "all things" this way
- See Acts 17:24-26 where Paul addresses Athenian philosophers and "all things" in this regard.

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