



Times of Worship

- Sunday Bible Classes:** 9am
- Sunday AM Worship:** 10am
- Sunday PM Worship:** 5pm
- Wednesday Bible Study:** 7pm

Join us Online

Church Website:

<https://www.westfayettechurchofchrist.com/>

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGckN8D9NwwX3KUuQ4GRKyA>

Interested in a Bible Study?

Please send an email to patcawthon@gmail.com

Evangelist

Patrick Cawthon

When Christians Disagree

Barnabas was very instrumental in Paul’s life during his early days of being a christian. After seeing the Lord on the road to Damascus and being blinded for three days he was baptized and had his sins washed away. In **Acts 9:26** Luke tells us Saul was trying to associate with the disciples but they were afraid of him (for good reason). Barnabas went to bat for Paul and told the apostles about his conversion and how “he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.” (**9:27**) Because of Barnabas, Paul was accepted and did a lot of good in Jerusalem for the Lord.

In **Acts 13** the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” The dynamic duo took along with them Barnabas’ cousin John Mark (**Col 4:10**) went to the island of Cyprus preaching the gospel to the Gentiles. From Cyprus they sailed to Asia Minor and preached the gospel in several different cities with great success along with great persecution. When they arrived at Perga from Cyprus, John Mark bailed on them.

God gave Paul and Barnabas great success and “opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. (**Act 14:27**) They started several churches on their journey and encouraged them to “continue in the faith and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” (**22**)

“After some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.’ (**Act 15:36**) Paul was worried about them and wanted Barnabas to go with him again to encourage these babes in Christ. Barnabas was a great encourager to Paul and to those who follow Christ.

Week of June 25

Attendance

- ◆ **AM Service** - 59
- ◆ **PM Service** - 43
- ◆ **Wednesday** - 47

Contribution

- ◆ Weekly Budget \$2,400
- ◆ Contribution - \$1,887

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

- ◆ Tom Hadley (7/3)
- ◆ Katie Scott (7/5)
- ◆ Ronnie and Amy (7/8)
- ◆ Logan McCoy (7/13)
- ◆ Minnie Morman (7/15)
- ◆ Harold and Julia (7/15)

Calendar Items

Women's Bible Study on
Tuesday at the building at 11a

Song Learning Class on Sunday
July 9 at 4pm at the building

Men's Meeting on the July 23 at
4pm at the building

Today's Lessons

- ◆ **AM Sermon** - Paul's Intense Concern
- ◆ **PM Sermon** - 2 Samuel 22

Barnabas wanted to take along with them John Mark who deserted them on the first missionary journey. Barnabas believed the best in him and knew how much help he would be to both of them. "Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along." (38) There was such a sharp disagreement between these two mature and strong christians that they ended up separating. Paul took Silas with him to the churches in Asia Minor and Barnabas took John Mark to the island of Cyprus. This is the last time Barnabas is mentioned in the book of Acts.

Who was right? Many say Barnabas was right and Paul was in the wrong. Their main argument is how later on Paul would brag on John Mark to Timothy. When Paul was in prison he asked Timothy to "get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry." (2Ti 4:11) Did Paul feel bad for not letting him go with him and Barnabas and trying to make up for that mistake?

The decision to take or not take John Mark was based on their judgement and wisdom; it was not an issue of would we be sinning if we took him or did not take him with us. If you are a defendant for Paul, would you have a good case? For one Paul is a godly person and is not known for making unwise decisions as a Christian. Secondly, would you want to chance taking John Mark and him bailing on you again? Paul would be telling the new followers of Christ there will be persecutions and then to have the example of John potentially deserting them would send the wrong message. Paul was unwilling to take that risk.

Barnabas was willing to give John Mark another chance and took him to the place they started the work before he bailed on them - the island of Cyprus. It seems as though Barnabas and John Mark did a great work and encouraged and strengthened the christians on that island.

So who was right? Barnabas or Paul? I say the answer is both Barnabas and Paul. I believe John Mark benefited from both of these men. Barnabas was someone he needed to give him a second chance. Paul was helpful to John Mark in noting how important it is to stay the course and your example to others. It seems John Mark took both of these lessons from these godly men with him the rest of his life. He proved to become "very useful" to Paul later on in his life and Paul appreciated him for his work in the Lord.

May we be like John Mark and learn from our mistakes and become very useful for the Lord.