

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 June 2024..... Acts 1 Commissioned
- 2) 09 & 16 June..... Acts 2a..... Empowered
- 3) 09 & 16 June..... Acts 2b..... United
- 4) 23 June..... Acts 3 Placed
- 5) 30 June & 07 July..... Acts 4a..... Emboldened
- 6) 30 June & 07 July..... Acts 4b..... Accountable
- 7) 14 July..... Acts 5 Worthy
- 8) 21 July..... Acts 6-7..... Serving
- 9) 28 July..... Acts 8 Baptizing
- 10) 04 & 11 Aug..... Acts 9a..... Calling
- 11) 04 & 11 Aug..... Acts 9b..... Healing
- 12) 18 Aug..... Acts 10-11 Including**
- 13) 25 Aug..... Acts 12 Praying

INTRODUCTION

- An angel of God told Cornelius his prayers & money-giving reached God's throne, so God wanted him to hear a special message so he and his entire family could draw even closer to his Creator.

Passage	Comments
Acts 10:1-8	<p>Was Cornelius Saved Before Hearing the Gospel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Cornelius exhibited many fine Christian qualities: 1) He was devout (faithful); 2) Feared God; 3) Taught his family to fear God; 4) He was charitable; and 5) He always prayed to God. • So was he already saved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. "...everyone who does what is right has been born of Christ" 1John 2:29 "doers of the law are declared righteous".....Rom 2:15 and "The one who does good is of God" 3John 3:11 ♦ But apparently one thing was lacking for Acts 11:14 says Peter was to speak words by which Cornelius and his household would be saved. So what words were spoken and what was lacking in Cornelius' faith? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The words spoken related to whosoever "believes (trusts) in Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins" Acts 10:43 2. The one thing Cornelius' needed to do was to transfer his trust in his good works to the saving word of Jesus Christ ♦ And why would God go through the trouble to enlighten Cornelius further about the Gospel? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God was apparently going to honor Cornelius and his family for their faithfulness with being the first official group of Gentiles to be welcomed officially into Christendom 2. God always wants to take people who are eager to serve Him to the next level of maturity – and knowledge of the Gospel and receipt of the Holy Spirit does that, just as Apollos, who only knew the "baptism of John" was instructed "more accurately" by Aquila and Priscilla, and by it, he became a more powerful witness Acts 18:24-26 3. Remember – it is sound doctrine, not experiences that is able to both save and mature the hearer 1Tim 4:16 • vv3-6. Cornelius received an angelic vision to fetch Peter who would give him and his family the words by which to be saved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Begs the question – Do such angelic visions or dreams still occur today? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prophetic visions/dreams seem to be passé based on Hebrews 1:1-2 and on the fact that the Scriptures are complete (66 books and no more) 2. Visions/dreams that convey guidance are very subjective. As always, prove all things 3. See Daniel 2-3 lesson for more on visions/dreams
Who Spreads the Gospel?	God always uses a human agent to preach the Gospel message <u>with only one exception</u> – when, during the final days of man's tenure on the earth, He uses an angel to preach the "eternal gospel" to those remaining Rev 14:6
10:9-16	<p>Peter's Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v10. Peter enters into a trance or "visionary state" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is this a one-of-a-kind event, or should this be normative for mature believers? ♦ Since Apostles have ceased (Christ is no longer selecting men as he did with Peter and Paul), this event was therefore unique and rare even during this time of church history • Peter apparently had some biases Christ had to deal with for Peter to be receptive to and a champion for receiving Gentiles into the Lord's church

Passage	Comments
10:17-33	<p>Peter's Visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter is puzzled by the vision, but he obeys the Spirit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We may not understand what God might be doing in our lives, but are we obedient as we traverse through this life? • v28. We must not call people common or unclean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ IOW, we must always look at people as potential candidates for salvation, people who Christ died for and wants to save to the uttermost.
10:34-43	<p>God Doesn't Show Favoritism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv34-25. Universal Truth – God accepts anyone who chooses to believe and fear Him & live righteously <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is not "good works save" but good works done for God indicate one is saved or savable • vv37-42. Cornelius' clan is introduced to Jesus Christ • v43. Universal Truth – All the prophets (i.e., all Scripture) testify that everyone is saved through the name of Jesus. The "name of Jesus" is not a magical incantation, but it signifies the essence or totality of who Jesus is (God in the flesh), and His desire to save mankind, as many as want to be saved – He forces no one.
10:44-48	<p>Gentile Acceptance into the Kingdom of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v45. The Jews were astounded when the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles with evidence of tongues. This event was nothing short of phenomenal. To us, it would be akin to granting salvation to dogs. It would take a while for most of the Jews to theologically make sense of things, and their world would be turned upside down for a bit. • Evidence of Speaking in Tongues. Some Pentecostals believe speaking in tongues is confirmation that one is saved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ BUT this is 1 of 5 passages where an Apostle, and only an Apostle, receives or bestows the Holy Spirit on a group of people. 1) Apostles receive HS with tongues, Acts 2; 2) Peter & Samaritans (no tongues evident), Acts 8; 3) Paul receives HS (no tongues evident), Acts 9; 4) Peter & Cornelius's clan, with tongues, Acts 10; and 5) Paul & the Ephesians, with tongues, Acts 19 ♦ Since Apostles have ceased, and all people groups (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the world) have been inducted into God's Kingdom, this ability to bestow the Holy Spirit on a people group is now passé. ♦ Also, biblical tongues, as recorded in Scripture, are of known human languages, not unknown gibberish
Some OT passages where Gentiles are to be welcomed as fellow Worshipers of Yahweh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lev 19:34. Strangers who reside with you shall be as the native among you; you shall love him as yourself 2. 2Kings 5. Naaman, a Syrian commander accepted God 3. Esther 8:17 Many Babylonians converted to Judaism 4. Isaiah 19:23-25; 27:13. Egyptians and other Arabs will one day worship with Jews in Jerusalem 5. Isaiah 66:23. All flesh will one day worship God 6. Jonah 3:5. The men of Nineveh believed in God 7. Zech 8:23. Non-Jews will one day grab a Jew, not to hurt them, but to follow them to Jerusalem for worship 8. Zech 14:16. One day all nations will keep the feasts

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- God does not want anyone's money until their heart is right with Him. The heart should precede the wallet in coming to God

NEXT WEEK: Acts 11. 1) Peter explained why Gentiles are part of God's Kingdom; 2) Scattered Christians continue to convert many; 3) Even more come to the Lord when God's word is manifested in godly believers; and 4) There are NT prophets prophesying.



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INTRODUCTION

- Lifeway opted to bypass most of Chapter 11, but since I am a stickler for expository teaching, I opted to weave the whole chapter in.
- In this chapter we see 1) Peter explaining why Gentiles are part of God's Kingdom; 2) Scattered Christians continue to convert many; 3) Even more come to the Lord when God's word is manifested in godly believers; and 4) There are NT prophets prophesying.

Passage	Comments
Acts 11: 1-18	<p>Peter Gave Details of Gentile Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Notice that the troublemakers were “they that were of the circumcision” – the legalists of the group • vv4-18. Yet Peter provided sufficient details to quell their concerns and convince them God wanted to save Gentiles along with Jews • Though, circumcision means nothing (1Cor 7:18,19) the issue was not going to die easily in the church's early years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul had to visit Jerusalem because of a dissension over circumcision Acts 15:2 ♦ False brethren stir up others over the legalistic practice of circumcision.....Gal 2:3-5 ♦ Paul, to be a good witness, had Timothy circumcised – and the church grew..... Acts 16:1-5 ♦ Paul, however, did not have Titus circumcised to appease Jews – and the gospel flourished.Gal 2:3-5
Principles of Liberty vs Legalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When man's traditions are put on par with Scripture, we will have problems, and going beyond what God intends can be destructive • To save some and reach those with a sensitive conscience we might have to put ourselves on their level as Paul did by not eating meat (1Cor 8:13) and as Timothy did by getting circumcised (Acts 16:3) • BUT, to appease false brethren is ludicrous as Paul showed by not having Titus circumcised..... Gal 2:4 • We are not to be excessively righteous Ecc 7:16
11:19-26	<p>Large Numbers Continue to Come to Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v19. The dispersed Jews preferred to witness to other Jews at first. After all, that was their comfort zone • v20. But there are always a few God prepares to break through those comfort zones • v21. Either way, God can bless both endeavors to allow “a great number to believe” and turn to Him • vv22-26. And sometimes God uses able-bodied saints to further increase and bless the body of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What steps can we take to be like Barnabas, who was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and was willing to take risks? ♦ What is stopping us from becoming like Barnabas?

Passage	Comments
11:27-28	<p>Evidence of New Testament Prophets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many Christians, especially those in the Pentecostal camp, lean toward the existence of NT prophets today who can both forth tell (i.e., preach the Gospel) and foretell (i.e., predict) future events accurately, as Elijah, Elisha, and Agabus did with direct guidance from God • My challenge to them is if we still have Apostles today, men of the same caliber of Peter's and Paul's, who are verifiably hand selected and taught by Christ, Himself, then it is reasonable for Prophets to still exist. BUT, since we do not have Apostles today, as evident by “the whole counsel of God,” the office of a Prophet has thereby ceased, along with other gifts of the Spirit • A key passage to consider is Hebrews 2:3-4. This passage conveys in “aorist” or past tense that supernatural wonders and gifts, once given to those who were directly taught by the Lord (i.e., original Apostles and disciples), were used to “confirm” the Gospel message. • The world will witness supernatural wonders and utterances once again when the two witnesses identified in Revelation 11 come on the world scene
11:29-30	<p>Christians Provide Relief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The early Christians joined forces to send relief to other believers in and around Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Principle to Live By #1. Notice, they sent relief to other believers. We must look after family first. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1. Why didn't God provide miraculous relief to those suffering believers in Judea? • Question 2. Why distress other believers? ♦ Principle to Live By #2. Notice, they sent relief by the hands of proven disciples, Barnabas and Saul. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question. Why not send money by deacons? • Answer. They could've used deacons. But Paul and Barnabas probably wanted to visit Judea

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- To promote church growth and position ourselves and the church body to be blessed, we should always do things God's way.
- Yes, we need to discern when and how to fight, run, or comply

NEXT WEEK: Acts 12. We see a stark contrast with Apostles James and Peter. Both are jailed, assuredly the church along with the rest of the Apostles pray for both. Yet, James is killed and Peter is released. But if they prayed in faith, why wasn't James released?

