

THE ADVANCE OF THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES Pt. 1 (Acts 10)

1. The ENTRANCE of the GENTILES into the BODY of CHRIST / the CHURCH. (Acts 10)

The significance of this event & chapters cannot be underestimated as Luke devotes 66 verses to explain the entrance & confirmation of these Gentiles into the _____ amidst Jewish reluctance & opposition in Acts 10 & 11. While Gentile salvation had occurred in the OT & NT previously (Adam, Abel, Noah, Abram, the Ninevites, the Syrophenician woman, etc.), the conversion of Cornelius & his household is the first recorded testimony of the Church being expanded to include _____, who then become one in the Body of Christ through the baptism by the _____. This is monumental. Yet we observe in these chapters that God must personally transform & transition the perspective of Church-age believers from _____, and from an exclusive OT Jewish nationalistic perspective to a NT universal _____ perspective in order for them to reach out with the Gospel & to welcome Gentiles into the Church by God's grace. (Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 3:2-6; 1 Cor. 12:13)

a. Cornelius & the Vision Preparation from God. (10:1-8)

- 1) **The description of Cornelius (10:1-2):** We will observe that this man is religious, but not regenerated, and needed to be born again. This is also significant for us as Israel was under Roman rule, yet the Gospel will still go forth in great power to open hearts that are searching for the truth!
- 2) **The vision from God to Cornelius (10:3-6):** What do these verses indicate about Peter? About Cornelius? In this age of grace, God has entrusted the preaching of the Gospel to believers / ambassadors for Christ, not to angels (as this one could have shared the message but didn't).
- 3) **The believing/obedient response of Cornelius to the vision (10:7-8):** We observe in this account that God is not willing that any should perish and that He will give more light/truth to those who respond to the truth they already have in conscience, Creation, the Bible, etc.

b. Peter & the Vision Orientation & Preparation from God. (10:9-20)

- 1) **The setting of the vision from God to Peter (10:9)**
- 2) **The sheet vision from God to Peter (10:10-12):** While God used various means of divine revelation in the past to communicate His message like this trance / vision object lesson, He speaks to us today through His inspired & completed Word.
- 3) **The command from God to Peter (10:13):** And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; ___ and ___."
- 4) **The objection of Peter to God (10:14):** What is ironic about Peter's reply?
- 5) **The reply & response of God to Peter's objection (10:15-16):** What is the obvious interpretation of this vision? Why 3 times?
- 6) **The response of Peter to the sheet vision experience & the Spirit's direction (10:17-20):** What at times is needed beyond declared revelation for there to be illumination and application in your life?

c. Peter's Journey & Reception by Cornelius. (10:21-33)

- 1) **The inquiry of Peter to the men (10:21-22):**

- 2) **The willing response of Peter to the invitation (10:23):**
- 3) **The eager but initially wrong reaction by Cornelius to Peter (10:24-25):**
- 4) **The godly response by Peter to this false worship (10:26):**
- 5) **The clarification, admission, and question by Peter (10:27-29)** What hump did God get Peter over?
- 6) **The reason for wanting Peter's visit (10:30-33):** Does God hear the prayers of the unsaved?

d. Peter's message to Cornelius and his household & friends. (10:34-48)

- 1) **The humble introduction (10:34-35):** What is this NOT teaching?
- 2) **The content of his message centered around Jesus Christ (10:36- 41):**
 - a) The message's *origin* came from _____. (10:36a)
 - b) The message involved *preaching* the good news of _____ through _____. (10:36b)
 - c) The message *exalted* the _____ of Jesus Christ: *He is _____ of _____*. (10:36c)
 - d) The message *explained* the _____ of Jesus Christ to provide historical context and demonstrate that He was Israel's _____. (10:37-38; Isa. 61:1)
 - e) The message *included* the _____ of Jesus as agonizing, degrading (10:39), a curse (Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13) and the _____ for sin. (Rom. 6:23; Rom. 5:8; Heb. 2:9)
 - f) The message *emphasized* the truth that "_____ on the third day, and _____ Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him _____ He arose from the dead." (Acts 10:40-41)

3) The applications in this message ... (10:42-43)

- a) underscore that Jesus Christ "_____ us to _____ to the people, and to _____ that it is _____ who was ordained by God to be _____ of the living and the dead. (10:42)
- b) highlight that the Gospel of grace ... (10:43)
 - (1) *centers* in _____ ... "to Him" – not a religion or a ritual;
 - (2) involves a *unified testimony* as "_____ the _____ witness" – similar to "according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3-4);
 - (3) is *grounded* "through _____" – referring to His person & salvation work;
 - (4) has as its *scope and invitation* ... "_____ " – not just a select few;
 - (5) has as its *one condition* ... "_____ " – to rely on or trust in; not religious works;
 - (6) has as its *one object of faith* ... "in _____" – and no one or nothing else;
 - (7) has as its *result* ... "will _____ of _____" – past, present, and future.

4) *The results of preaching this message involve ... (10:44-48)*

- a) the falling upon and receiving of the _____ to those who heard the word (and believed it).
- b) the astonishment of the saved Jews (who accompanied Peter) "because the _____ of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the _____."

How did they know that this occurred? "For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. (10:46) This was like a 3rd Pentecost (Acts 2 & 8).

- c) these Gentile believers were water _____ and publicly identified with Christ ("in the name of the Lord") and consequently with His Church – not as a means of salvation but as a result of being saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

Some take-homes from this chapter:

- 1. God was graciously, sovereignly, and providentially _____ this evangelistic & divine appointment as He wants all to be saved and Christ's Church to be built. Has God changed?
- 2. God wants the lost to be saved more than they do & will give them more _____ if they respond to the truth that they have (and even sometimes when they are not). Don't forget that there are open unbelievers!
- 3. God wants us to understand that we are not under _____ but under _____ in our sanctification & service, and that we must think & respond to scriptural principles under grace, not religious traditions.
- 4. God is no _____, and neither should we be, especially when it comes to giving out the Gospel and welcoming and fellowshiping with other believers in the body of Christ regardless of their ethnic backgrounds, etc.
- 5. God uses believers who were _____ to the Lord and willing to be used & _____ in their thinking and conduct. Is this true of you?
- 6. The Church was _____ amidst Jewish persecution and Roman rule – and so can we if we let God do it!
- 7. God's offer of salvation / forgiveness is available to any & all who would simply _____ alone because of His person & salvation work. Water baptism then is only for believers to give public _____ or _____ with Jesus Christ as a result of being saved by grace & receiving the Holy Spirit.