

**Witnesses to Christ**  
*Studies in the Acts of the Apostles*

**God Shows No Partiality**  
**Lesson 9**  
**Acts 10**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*February 28, 2016*

# Acts 1:8 – Outline of Acts

- ▶ In Jerusalem (1-7)
- ▶ In all Judea and Samaria (8-12)
- ▶ To the remotest part of the earth (13-28)
- ▶ Witnesses to Christ
- ▶ By the Holy Spirit

# The New Covenant Era

- ▶ Acts – the beginning of the New Testament
- ▶ No advantage to being a Jew – no partiality with God
- ▶ Acts 10:1-11:18 – longest narrative of Acts
- ▶ Acts 15:7-11 – summary of Acts 10
- ▶ Two faces of Judaism
  - The true revelation of God's Law and the coming Messiah
  - A false religion with a false god
- ▶ The era of the Holy Spirit – without the Law of Moses
- ▶ Forgotten lessons from Abraham
- ▶ Law was a schoolmaster – teacher
- ▶ Scripture teaches both removal and restoration of Israel

# A Major Transition – Acts 10

- ▶ A hard lesson for Peter
  - Peter and the Gentiles: Acts 10:14; Gal. 2:11-14
  - Peter and the Great Commission: Acts 10:42
  - Paul's clarification: Galatians 4:21-31
- ▶ Divine intervention
  - An angel of God sent to Cornelius
  - The Lord speaks to Peter
  - The Holy Spirit teaches the Jewish believers

# Acts 10

- ▶ A Message for Cornelius (10:1-8)
- ▶ A Message for Peter (10:9-23)
- ▶ The Savior of the world by grace through faith (10:24-48)



# A Message for Cornelius (10:1-8)

- ▶ A devout man
- ▶ Feared God with all his household
  - The natural response to God – rejection (Romans 1:18-23)
  - Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10)
  - Fear of the LORD is to hate evil (Proverbs 8:13)
  - Fear of LORD describes Messiah (Isaiah 11:1-2)
- ▶ Gave many alms to “the people” (Jews)
  - Abrahamic promise – “bless those who bless you
  - Evidence of the fear of the LORD – love your neighbor
- ▶ Prayed to God continually
- ▶ A vision – an angel of God
  - Your prayers and alms – “a memorial before God”
  - Send to Joppa for Simon Peter
- ▶ Cornelius obeyed

# Why Cornelius?

- ▶ Cornelius was not a believer
  - Acts 11:13-18 – Peter's message for his salvation
  - Acts 15:7-11 – Divine plan for salvation by Peter's message
  - Acts 10:37-38 – Knowledge of Jesus without faith
- ▶ Compare Saul and Cornelius – legalism and piety
- ▶ One thing they lacked (Luke 18:22)
- ▶ Were the Jews teaching the truth about God?
- ▶ Christless religion does not lead to Christ!



**Both “God” and this “fearing” are definitely revealed in the Word, and neither term is to be determined by men. A wrong conception of God involves a wrong conception of what fearing God means; and vice versa. No greater insult can be offered to God than to disregard his Word concerning himself and our relation to him. In no way does Peter say or imply that a pagan who is serious about what he is pleased to call god is accepted by God.**

**R. C. H. LENSKI**



# Why Cornelius?

- ▶ “Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.” (Acts 10:4)
- ▶ “Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.” (Exodus 2:23-25)

# A Message for Peter (10:9-23)

- ▶ An apostle in need of instruction (10:14, 28; 11:17)
- ▶ The vision from heaven
- ▶ What God has cleansed, do not consider unholy
- ▶ Jesus taught this previously (Mark 7:1–23)
- ▶ Lesson learned? (10:28-29)
- ▶ Lesson not yet learned – What reason . . .? (10:29b)
- ▶ Cornelius asks for a word from the Lord God

# Peter Preaches the Gospel (10:34-48)

- ▶ Lesson learned – no partiality by God
- ▶ Peace through Jesus Christ
- ▶ Jesus of Nazareth – God was with Him
- ▶ Put to death on the cross by men
- ▶ Raised from the dead on the third day by God
- ▶ Visible to witnesses
- ▶ Appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead
- ▶ Forgiveness of sins by faith in Him



# The Gift of the Holy Spirit

- ▶ A lesson for the Jewish believers with Peter
- ▶ Speaking in tongues (2:4, 11; 19:6)
  - Exalting God
- ▶ Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Peter compares this with Pentecost (11:15)
- ▶ Confirmation of the Gospel to the Gentiles (11:15-18)
- ▶ Justification by faith alone (15:8-11)

# God Shows No Partiality

- ▶ Salvation by grace through faith alone – no Law
- ▶ Preaching Jesus Christ to all
- ▶ The ministry of the Holy Spirit