

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #9 -Conversion of Cornelius

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:1-8

Introduction:

1. Being a part of the church means that we are a part of something greater than ourselves.
2. We observe in this conversion an abundance of evidence showing this work is of God.

I. CORNELIUS HEARS FROM THE LORD -10:1-8

- A. Description of Cornelius -vs 1, 2
 1. He was Roman centurion (i.e. he was over one-hundred men in the Roman army)
 2. Verse two describes his character: devout man, feared God, gave alms to the poor
- B. Message from the Lord -vs. 3-8
 1. His prayers and alms have gained the attention of God
 2. He is told to send for Peter

II. PETER'S VISION -10:9-16

- A. The vision
 1. He sees a sheet filled with unclean animals which God tells him to kill and eat.
 2. The Lord states that what He had cleaned, he should not call common.
- B. Peter wonders what the vision means

III. PETER IS AND CORNELIUS -10:17-33

- A. Peter is summoned to Caesarea -vs. 17-23
 1. The Spirit assures Peter he should go to Caesarea
 2. Peter learns that the Lord had been in communication with Cornelius -vs. 22, 23
- B. Peter meets with Cornelius -vs. 24-33
 1. Peter forbids Cornelius from worshipping him -vs. 25, 26
 2. Cornelius relates his experience with the Lord communicating with him
 3. The reason for sending him was to hear the commandments of the Lord -vs. 32, 33

IV. THE CONVERSION -10:34-48

- A. Peter's Sermon
 1. God shows no partiality
 2. The gospel is for all; salvation is through Jesus
- B. The coming of the Holy Spirit
 1. While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on the gentiles
 2. The purpose was to show the Jews that salvation had been open to them
 - a. Remember the words of Christ -Jn 12:32
 - b. This would be a struggle the Jews would have for some time to come
 3. Peter commanded them to be baptized.
 - a. They were not saved until baptism.
 - b. Baptism is for the remission of sins -Ac 2:38
 - c. Baptism comes before salvation -Mk 16:16

Conclusion:

1. From start to finish one can observe the Lord at work in the conversion of the gentiles.
2. Today we realize that the gospel is for all; any and all can be saved.