

The Conversion of Cornelius – Part II

Acts 10:34 – 11:18

October 13, 2024

I. Introduction

- A. It's refreshing to see people obey God as Peter did
- B. The necessary agents for conversion to take place are the Word of God and the Spirit of God, but often we are used as was Peter here.
- C. This story is a great example of Colossians 4:2-6

II. God's Message to Cornelius through Peter – vs. 34-48

- A. God is not one to show partiality – vs. 34-35
 - 1. Peter did not know this before – v. 34; Mark 7:19
 - 2. God welcomes all types of people – v. 35
 - 3. Verse 35 (KJV accepted) = "*marked by a favorable manifestation of the divine pleasure*".
- B. "The Word" concerning Jesus – vs. 36-43
 - 1. Peace comes through Him for He is Lord of all – v. 36;
 - a. See Romans 5:1 and Philippians 4:6,7
 - 2. They knew about and of Jesus (v. 37, 38) but did not know Him
 - 3. His death and resurrection are the heart and soul of the Gospel message (see I Corinthians 15:1-4) – vs. 39, 40
 - 4. Peter and the apostles were chosen by God to witness the resurrected Christ and to preach (proclaim) Him to all. – vs. 41, 42
 - 5. Peter said all the prophets spoke of Jesus. – v. 41
 - a. This Jesus Himself proclaimed (see Luke 24:25-27)
 - 6. This message of peace with God (v. 36) is made possible because of Christ's death and resurrection (vs. 39, 40) and results in "forgiveness of sins" (v. 43) to "everyone who believes in Him" (v. 43)
 - a. See Romans 4:5; Acts 16:3

- C. The response of Cornelius, his family and friends – vs. 44-48
 - 1. Peter's sermon is interrupted by the Holy Spirit's coming upon them – v. 44
 - 2. The order is the same here and throughout the rest of scripture. The time of transition is over.
 - a. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. Baptism by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12)
 - c. Water Baptism
 - 3. Clearly the gift of tongues was given to prove to the Jewish believers that God showed no partiality – v. 45 and 11:15-17
 - a. Revelation 22:16,17
- D. The Conversion of Cornelius Defended – vs. 11:1-18 (additional details not found in 10:44-48)
 - 1. Verses 1-3: The Apostles and brethren take issue with Peter going to the house of a Gentile.
 - 2. Verses 4-18: Tell how to deal with sincere criticism
 - a. He spoke versus saying nothing and/or getting mad.
 - b. He spoke in orderly sequence.
 - 3. Verse 18a: They heard; all who hear do not listen.
 - 4. Repentance (part of believing, not a separate act) is granted by God.
 - a. See 11:21; 20:21; II Timothy 2:25