

## Acts 10:23b-11:18

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 3-22-17

### Context

#### III. Foundations for World Mission (6:8-12:24)

- A. Stephen the martyr (6:8-7:60)
- B. Philip the evangelist (8:1-40)
- C. The conversion of Saul (9:1-31)

#### D. The conversion of Cornelius (9:32-11:18)

- E. Expansion and opposition (11:19-12:24)

### Peter Preaches to Cornelius' Household - Acts 10:23b-48

Both Cornelius (9:25) and Peter (9:28, 48) break protocol

Peter is repudiating two extreme and opposite attitudes

- He refused to be treated by Cornelius as a \_\_\_\_\_ and to treat Cornelius as if he were a \_\_\_\_\_

Vv. 24-43 - Peter's response

- What he has learned
  - Negatively: V. 34 - "God is not one to show partiality" (cf. Lev. 19:15; II Chron. 19:7)
  - Positively: V. 35 - "In every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him"
    - God's attitude toward people is not determined by any \_\_\_\_\_ criteria: appearance, race, nationality, class, etc.
    - He is laser focused on the inner issues of the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Peter is NOT expecting to turn Cornelius into a Jew, but he IS expecting him to become a Christian!
- Summarizes certain recent key events in the life of Jesus (v. 37 - "the thing which took place")
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (vv. 38-39a)
    - "God was with him" (cf. 2:22)
    - V. 39 - "we are witnesses of all he did"
  - Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 39b)
    - Makes a theological point: not "cross" but "\_\_\_\_\_ " - bearing the \_\_\_\_\_ of our sins.
  - Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 40-41)
    - Divine act ("God raised him") and datable ("on the third day")
  - These events constitute the \_\_\_\_\_. History, theology, and gospel are all combined in this sermon on Jesus.

V. 44 - Cornelius and his household believed and the HS descends

Vv. 45-46 - Jews were amazed

- Sign of "tongues" = God \_\_\_\_\_ them to one another

Vv. 47 - Peter's logical deduction

- Interesting change of sequence (cf. Samaritan, eunuch, Saul, Cornelius)

V. 48 - baptism, \_\_\_\_\_, and solidarity in Christ.

## Peter Justifies His Actions - 11:1-18

Compare to chapter 8 (Samaritan conversion) - apostolic verification and endorsement

Vv. 2-3 - the Jewish Christians "took issue with Peter"

Vv. 4-17 - Peter's explanation of how it all happened, told from his own perspective, giving insight into how the Lord brought about the transformation in the life of Peter through four acts of divine revelation:

- The divine \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 4-10)
  - The animals were symbols of "clean" and "unclean" people
  - The sheet = the \_\_\_\_\_
- The divine \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 11-12)
  - A party of 7 - authenticating and sealing as absolutely true and legitimate.
- The divine \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 13-14)
  - God orchestrated the entire sequence from both ends
  - A beautiful picture of divine \_\_\_\_\_: God at work in the world through the lives of men and women who freely agree to positively respond to his initiatives.
- The divine \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 15-17)
  - Same preacher, message, result - VERY different crowd.

Vv. 17-18 - F.F. Bruce: "Their criticism ceased and their worship began."

## Application

The \_\_\_\_\_ - of the church

- In the church, all discrimination should be treated as obscenity (offensive to human dignity) and blasphemy (offensive to God who shows no partiality).

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

- The emphasis is on the gift of the Person of the HS - his presence and power.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of non-Christians

- Even Cornelius needed to hear the gospel, repent, and believe in Jesus.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel

- Saul and Cornelius could not have been more different:

	<b>Saul</b>	<b>Cornelius</b>
<b>Race</b>	Jew	Gentile
<b>Culture</b>	Scholar	Soldier
<b>Religion</b>	Bigot	Seeker

- Yet both were objects of God's prevenient grace, both responded to the same Gospel of Jesus Christ, both received forgiveness of sins and the gift of the HS, and both were baptised and welcomed into the Christian community on equal terms.
- Demonstrates the power and impartiality of the gospel of Christ, which remains to this day "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Rom. 1:16)