



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **In Acts 8**
- We found find **Philip** engaged in promising work, **In Samaria.**
- **In Acts 10**
we find **Peter** engaged in a promising work, **in Joppa.**
- He like Philip might justly have supposed that he would be allowed **to remain in Joppa.**
- Like Samaria it was **a rich and suitable field.**

- Like Philip
he would naturally have
wondered why
he should be sent to
Caesarea.
- What good could he do there?
 - And yet he
immediately obeyed
the Divine command.

- And we may wonder why it was worth while to take Peter away from the great task of converting multitudes
 - for the purpose of saving a single stranger.

- Was it not Christ who told the parable of the lost sheep.

- Who left the ninety and nine to seek the one.
(**Matthew 18**)

- But it was not the salvation of a single soul only that was involved.

- It was to be the first Gentile convert.

- One of the amazing things about the Bible is how much truth can be stored in such small places.
 - So what great truth is revealed in Acts 10.

- Centurions were the backbone of the Roman army.
- An ancient historian describes the qualifications of the centurion:
 - **"Centurions are desired not to be overbold and reckless so much as good leaders,..**
 - **able when overwhelmed and hard-pressed to stand fast and die at their posts."**
- Cornelius therefore was a man who first and foremost knew what courage and loyalty were.

- Cornelius is a rather **mysterious character.**
- He **appears** and **disappears** in the same Bible chapter.
- **This Gentile soldier's**
- **marvelous moral character,**
- **his noble influence,**
- **even among Jews**
- **is astounding.**

- He was a worshiper of the one, true God.
- His life was characterized by:
 - Prayer
 - and generosity to the poor.
 - He was a spiritual example to his family.

➤ **When Peter arrived
at the house,
Cornelius
he said something extraordinary.**

➤ **Something,
all seeking salvation
should say:**

➤ **Acts 10:33**

**Now therefore we are all here
present in the sight of God,**

➤ **to hear all things
that have been commanded of the Lord.**

- Why is it that people want to argue about the simple plan of salvation that Peter presents to Cornelius?

➤ Let us notice

six things

regarding Cornelius'
Theology.

- First, Cornelius referred to “God,” not gods.
- As a rule, Gentiles subscribed to the notion that there were many “gods” (1 Cor. 8:5-6).
- The depravity of Roman religion is vividly portrayed in the first chapter of Paul’s letter to the Roman saints (Romans 1:21-32).

- Even before he heard the gospel message, Cornelius already had turned from idols to reverence a living God (**Acts 14:15; 1 Thes. 1:9**).

- He was making every effort to lead his family to please God.

- Second, Cornelius believed that God was a keen observer of human activity.
 - He confessed:
“we are all here in the sight of God.”
 - In 1st Peter we learn that the “angels” were deeply interested in God’s plan to save lost mankind.
- Why should it be treated so lightly?

➤ **Even the Hebrews**

had a difficult time on occasion
conceiving the idea

that Jehovah observes everything.

➤ When **Jacob** fled from his home,
fearing the wrath of his brother **Esau**,
he came to **Bethel**.

➤ In a thrilling dream
God spoke to him,
renewing the promise
that first had been made
to his grandfather, Abraham.

- When Jacob awoke, he exclaimed, with obvious surprise:
 - **“Surely Jehovah is in this place; and I knew it not”**
(Genesis 28:16).
- Is Jehovah watching, now?

➤ When Jonah was instructed by the Lord to do mission work in Nineveh, he sought to do otherwise.

➤ Rather than heading east to Assyria, he determined to go west, to Tarshish,

➤ And so be away

“from the presence of Jehovah”
(Jonah 1:3).

- It is remarkable that Cornelius had such a clear understanding of the Creator's nature.
- What is our understanding of God's nature?
- Since God desires that “all” be saved, is it not logical that He is watching?

➤ Third, Cornelius was aware that God would reveal vital instructions from a man named Peter.

➤ Therefore, they were all assembled to “hear” the things” to be spoken by Peter.
(**Acts 10:6**)

- Cornelius knew he had received no special message from the angel., detailing how to be saved.
- He didn't say "It's O.K. God I've got this"
- He did not surmise that he could capture some "spiritual vibes" and that would do the trick.

➤ He did not
subscribe to the view
that he could
merely follow his conscience
and all would be right.
(**Proverbs 14:12; Acts 23:1**).

➤ This is a powerful truth
that legions today,
who are searching for answers
in every place
but the right one,
need to learn.

- **Fourth**, Cornelius acknowledged **the sovereignty of Almighty God.**
- He confessed that the Lord had **“commanded”** certain things to be done.
- And he was anxious **to humbly submit.**

- **“Commanded”**
(Acts 10:33)

translates from the Greek
to mean:

- **“to arrange toward,”**
- **To prescribe,**
- **To order,**
- **To command something**

- Next, the verb is in the **passive voice form.**
- Meaning that **God** is the giver of commands, and we **humans** are the receivers.
- We are **not allowed** in the driver's seat!

- The term is also in the perfect tense.
- Meaning that God has ordered the “commands”
And they are not negotiable.

- The effect is this:
God had commanded,
and his will is to be obeyed.
- There would be
no disputing it.
- This was truly
an amazing concept
for this Gentile to have perceived.
- A lesson **Peter**
was soon to learn.
- Earlier, even Peter had said:
“Not so, Lord”
(Acts 10:14).

➤ Fifth, Cornelius recognized that he could not selectively obey the Lord.

➤ “All” was the goal.

➤ He said they were present to receive

“all things”

the Lord had commanded Peter to convey.

- How many there are today who would be so happy if only God allowed them “multiple choice” obedience.
- They would gladly believe if only they could dispense with baptism (**Mark. 16:16**),
- Or they would be immersed if only they did not have to repent (**Acts 2:38**).

- We can learn a lesson at this point from an Old Testament character named “Naaman”,
- Naaman the Assyrian was not terribly disturbed about dipping in a river for cleansing from his leprosy,
 - He just didn't like the Lord's choice of rivers.
(2 Kings 5:12)
 - What did he learn?

- Sixth, Cornelius yielded to the authority of Peter, God's spokesman.
 - He let it be know that he and his family were there to hear from Peter the things that God commanded.
 - Peter's words would carry as much weight as if the Lord had spoken to them personally.

- There are those who labor under the illusion that the “**words in red,**” in some editions of the Gospel accounts, are of greater significance than what Peter or Paul wrote.

- **2 Peter 3:8**
“**Be not ignorant**”.

➤ Regarding the seventy in **Luke 10**:

➤ **“He who hears you hears me;
and he who rejects you rejects me;
and he who rejects me
rejects him who sent me”
(**Luke 10:16**).**

➤ Paul also said:

**The things I write unto you
are the commandments of the Lord.
(**1 Corinthians 14:37**).**

- Cornelius' understanding
is stunning indeed.
- Are we willing to listen
as he teaches us
- After presenting Jesus to Cornelius we have this
COMMAND:
 - And he commanded them
to be baptized in
the name of the Lord.
(Acts 10:48)
 - Of all that Peter taught
why is this command
he only one mentioned?

- Some things to consider:
 - Jesus commanded all to be “baptized” (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - Yet, some claim to be saved without being baptized.
 - Might I ask “How”?

- **Mark 16:15-16**

Jesus said all
“**believers**”
should be baptized.

- Yet, there are
“**believers**”
who have never been
baptized,
Why?

- 1st Peter 3:21

Peter states that
“baptism, now saves us”.

- Yet we have
“believers”
who claim to having
been “saved”

without
“baptism”,

- Might I ask how that happened?

- **Galatians 3:27**

Paul states we
“**put on Christ**”
through
“**baptism**” .

- Yet, some believers
claim to having done this
without
“**baptism**” .

- Might I ask **how**
this was accomplished?

- It sounds to me like some folks are making their own rules.
- Is that what Cornelius meant when he said “all”?

- The Pharisees who rejected John's baptism were guilty of what?
- “Rejecting the counsel of God”.
 - Yet we have believers rejecting God's counsel and claiming to be saved.
- How is that going to work out?

- **Luke 7:29**

And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

- **7:30** But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

- **7:31** And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?

- Luke 7:32

They are like unto children ...

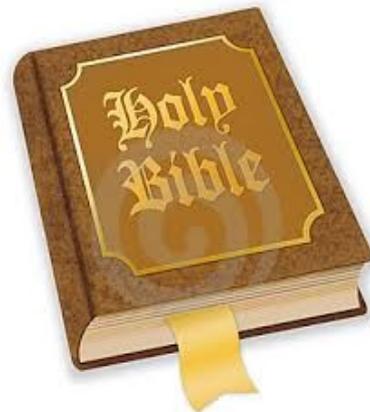
- 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and you say, He has a devil.
- 7:34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and you say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!
- 7:35 But wisdom is justified of all her children.

- I find it amazing that Jesus presents a plan to save people
- And to my surprise they have already been saved.
 - Not by God's rules, but by their own!
- “**Why call me Lord, Lord, and do NOT what I say?**
(**Luke 6:46**)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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