



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Acts 10

is one of the

most important chapters

in the entire Book of Acts,

- For it records
the opening of
the door of faith

to the Gentiles.

- Peter had used **“the keys of the kingdom”**
- To open the door of faith **to the Jews**
(**Acts 2:1-47**)
- **And the Samaritans**
(**Acts 8:14**),
 - And now would **complete his special ministry**
by opening the door **to the Gentile**

- At first glance,
it might appear strange
that such a man as Cornelius
should *need* conversion.
- There are many men
who flatter themselves
with their prospects
for eternity
by their good works.

- They are honest in their business,
- Good husbands and fathers,
- Generous to their neighbors,
 - Benevolent to the poor;
 - What have they to fear at the hands of a just and merciful God?

- They forget that **their obligations to God are infinitely higher** than those to men,
 - It is the most **inexcusable of all sins** to persistently refuse him the worship which is his due.

➤ This offense takes the hue of the blackest ingratitude, when we remember the blood which has been shed.

to open up to us the way of pardon and eternal life.

➤ Of this crime
every man is guilty
who does not worship
the living God,
and submit to the
ordinances
of Jesus Christ.

- But Cornelius was
a praying man,
 - A devout
worshiper of God,
- Possessing every virtue
claimed by
self-righteous sinners.

➤ Yet it was necessary
for even him to hear.

➤ Hear what?

➤ “words by which
he might be saved.”

(Acts 11:14)

- As we continue our study of Cornelius in Acts 10 we notice that:
 - He “feared” God.
 - Not a superstitious dread.
 - But a brave man’s dread of failing to do the will of God.
 - **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**
(**Mark 9:24**)

- The Gentile world had grown sick at heart.
(Romans 1)

- The “middle wall of partition” was falling to the ground.
(Ephesians 2:14)

- **Cornelius** was to learn that the Cross was the center of an **ever widening circle,**
- And **Peter** was to learn that that circle was as **big as the world.**

- The Divine direction is very exact.
- Both Phillip and Peter's names may have been given to Cornelius.
- Philip, a resident of Caesarea, might have been called to his side within an hour.
- But Philip was not the man for the occasion.

- Of all men

Peter was best fitted

to preach Jesus to Cornelius,

- Of all men

the one most needing

the results of his preaching.

- And **what** is he to tell Cornelius?

- **“He will tell you what you must do.”**

- These words emphasize

two important truths:

- # 1 They point to the value of human agency in the salvation of men.

- The great commission was given to men, not angels.

(**Matthew 28:19-20**)

- **# 2** They point to Jesus **as the complete revelation of God.**
- When He can be found **all else is insufficient.**
 - And it was because He could be found **that Cornelius could not be, allowed to remain where he was.**

- Clearly, being religious alone isn't what saves you
- It is the blood of Christ that saves!
And not good deeds alone.
 - Ephesians 1:7 (KJV)
In whom we have redemption through his blood,
 - the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

- In the mean time
Peter is found praying.

- Is the man
on the house top **ready?**

- A great thing was
about to happen.

- A huge prejudice
had come
to its death.

- Peter had been taught, had fallen, had been forgiven and restored.
- Yet he was not ready for a worldwide need.

- Oh, how we allow our prejudices to blind us.

- But, Peter's eyes are soon to be opened.

- It required surgery from the **Great Physician.**

- **New attitudes**
are a must.

- Old attitudes must **give way to the new.**

- **New truths**
must give way
to the old.

- It is Peter who must undergo surgery.
- But, he is not a willing patient.
- Sadly, there are many who are still not ready.

- Jesus Christ is the **“light of the world”**.
(**John 9:5**)

- How many times had Peter **heard Jesus say that?**
- Yet, it **never struck home** until now.
- Jesus has **come to illuminate** the world.
 - The **pagan** is to be released from total darkness.
 - The **Jew** to receive total illumination.

- Cornelius and Peter,
Jew and Gentile,
both had visions
granted by God.

- As God is

“no respecter of persons”.

- So both men
are to find the truth.

- We all need to progress religiously.
- But, not beyond Christ,
- Let no one ever say they have no more to learn about the Son of God.
- 2 Peter 3:18 (GNB)

But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen.

- As we find Peter on the housetop praying,
- He became hungry and desired something to eat; but while they were preparing it,
- He fell into a trance and saw the heaven opened,
- And something descending, like a great sheet.

- In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.
 - And there came a voice to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."
(**Acts 10:13**)

- But Peter said,
"No, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."
- And the voice came to him
a second time,
- "What God has cleansed, you must not call common."
 - This happened
three times,
(Acts 10:9-16 RSV)

- What a strange experience!
 - Why did this happen to Peter?
 - God wanted to heal Peter of:
 - of prejudice,
 - of bigotry.

- Here is an inspired apostle filled with the Holy Spirit.
- And yet, he is filled with prejudice.
- What is it in our lives that the Great Physician needs to heal?

- The Old Testament tells us that **God has separated the Jews** from the rest of mankind.
 - He did **not** choose them because they were smarter or superior to anyone else.
(**Deuteronomy 7:7-8**)

- He chose them because they were to be the pattern of God's relationship to every people.
- Only in that sense were they a chosen people.

- But the Jews **distorted** that calling of God.
- They began to believe that God had called them **because** they were already a superior people,
 - And that God was **their exclusive possession,**
 - As well as that they were the exclusive **possession of God**

- This whole idea had been accepted by the Jews as divinely approved.
- And so Peter grew up with the attitude that God did not like Gentiles.

- Gentiles were a sort of animal, not quite human.
 - They were not to be spoken to or invited into your home.
 - If he even touched one accidentally he would go home and wash.
 - This bigotry was deep in the apostle's heart.

- So God sends a vision.
- A sheet full of animals which Peter had been taught were unclean.
- But God's command is, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."
- Peter begins at once to argue with the Lord.

- Let's analyze Peter's answer.
 - If you say "Lord"
 - Then you must not say, "Not so."
 - And if you say "Not so"
 - Then he is NOT Lord.
 - Yet many continually argue with God and telling him that they know best.

- The kingdom of light is about to be entered.
- Note the difference between Peter and Cornelius.
 - Peter argued,
 - Cornelius didn't.
- The time had come for action.
 - The order to Cornelius is, "Now send."

- Peter did not go to the Gentiles because he was obeying the Great Commission
- But because the Spirit commanded him to go.
- In fact, when he arrived at Cornelius' house, he asked,
“For what reason have you sent for me?”
(**Acts 10:29**)

- And as he began to preach God interrupted him in order to accomplish His purpose.
(**Acts 10:44; Act 11:15-16**)
 - And what might that purpose be?
 - “Baptism”
(**Acts 10:47**)
 - Why does “Baptism,” keep popping up?
 - Surely, there must have been other topics under discussion.

- Peter did not say that all who “do good” are saved.
- He did not say that those who know about Jesus will be saved.
 - For Peter states in Acts 10:37-38 that Cornelius already knew a good bit about Jesus and his ministry.

- Acts 10:37
You know

what happened throughout Judea. Everything began in Galilee after John spread the news about baptism.

- 10:38 You know

that God anointed Jesus from Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.

- Sounds to me that Peter has made a trip for nothing.
- Cornelius knows all he needs to know.
- He's a believer.
- He doing good deeds.
 - He's saved!
 - Go home Peter.

- But, he has made no confession of faith like the Ethiopian Eunuch.
- He has not repented,
- So what is missing?

- Oh! How about that baptism stuff.
- Surely that's not an issue, is it?
 - Did the Holy Spirit get it wrong?
 - Evidently if “Believing” is all one needs.

- Why did the Angel not save them earlier?
 - Maybe the Holy Spirit and the Angels are having a competition.
 - Or maybe there is another step to salvation.

- Then answered Peter,
 - Sounds like Peter hasn't finished his sermon.

- Act 10:47

Can any man forbid water,
that these should not be baptized,
which have received
the Holy Ghost as well as we?

- Surely Cornelius could have objected to being baptized seeing he is already a believer.
- Why go to all that trouble?

- But, wait a minute, didn't the angel tell Cornelius that Peter would tell him something important?
 - What was that something?
 - Let's listen to the words of Cornelius to Peter:
 - Act 10:33

**Now therefore are we all here present
before God,
to hear all things
that are commanded of God.**

- As Peter **finishes his sermon:**

- **Acts 10:48**

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

- **Cornelius may not have** understand everything God commanded.
 - Our **duty** is not to understand everything **but to obey.**
 - That is what **both** Peter and Cornelius **learned.**
 - Are we willing to **follow their example?**

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

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



