

Chapter 10

v.1-2 devout- those who diligently seek God will find Him

Thirty-two such Italian cohorts were stationed in the different provinces of the empire. They were made up of Italian volunteers and were considered the most loyal Roman troops.” (Lenski) Because he was such a loyal servant of the oppressors of Israel, most every patriotic Jewish person of that day would naturally be prejudiced against Cornelius.

Cornelius was in the category of what the Jews called *God-fearers* (**one who feared God**). These were Gentiles who loved the God of Israel; they were sympathetic to and supportive of the Jewish faith. Yet they stopped short of becoming full Jews in lifestyle and in circumcision.

. Jewish people of that time respected and appreciated these God-fearing Gentiles, but they could not really share their life and homes and food with them, because they were still in fact Gentiles and not full Jewish converts.

v.6 he will tell you what you must do? Do we have the commitment to ask what He wants us to do?

v.9-16 Peter has this revealing vision of cleansing from heaven

- in Leviticus 11 we have a list of things forbidden to eat, dietary laws. They were given for a twofold purpose, cleanliness and hygiene because of conditions and also to show forth a truth.

- the word for sheet could be translated sail, fisher of men?

- corners- medical term for end of bandage to bind up, linen strips, only a physician would use this terminology

v.14 “not so” how often has Peter said this? Peter has been taken beyond the law, “how many times must I forgive, seven”? Now he is taken beyond his concept of grace

v.17 while he was wondering about ***While he wondered God revealed-*** this 3 men come- why the vision three times, why 3 men? God has a way of keeping us humble and bringing reality back to our remembrance.

- Peter knows that his relationship with God is not based on laws and traditions but upon grace

- now Peter is faced with dispensing that grace apart from the system he has served

v.19-20 listening to and obeying the voice of the Holy Spirit

v.21 why did you call me? Keep this in mind when sharing Jesus, the Holy Spirit has already prepared their hearts.

v.24 India, Egypt, Canada- when people know that you have come with a message from God, they will bring people

v.28 opens with an insult

v.33 important to hear all things commanded you by God

v.35 those of every nation- Arabs, Muslims, Hindus, Jews, Gentiles but must respond to the truth- this is where we are dropping the ball today with (tolerance ?)

Peter's keeping of the law was not enough

Cornelius devout fearing of God and almsgiving was not enough

Dorcas charitable works were not enough

Jesus is enough

v.42 He Jesus is the judge- it is by and against Him everyone soul will be judged

v.43 heart of the gospel

v.44 THE MAN OF GOD- WORD OF GOD- SPIRIT OF GOD

v.44-45 the Holy Spirit is poured out, don't you think that the Lord would have His Holy Spirit just as poured out on us today?

- 1) Are we spending time with God?
- 2) Are we listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit?
- 3) Are we willing to do what the Holy Spirit directs us to do?
- 4) Do we have a message, THE MESSAGE?

1Pet 3:15 (NKJV)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;