

Acts 10 CORNELIUS

10: 1-8 GOOD ENOUGH TO BE SAVED??

- * vv. 1-2 – List Cornelius’ positive qualities. (see also v.22, 31b)
 - devout - God-fearing - generous giver - prayed regularly - righteous
- * Considering these qualities, why was it necessary for Cornelius to meet Peter?
 - > He needed to hear the GOSPEL!!
- * What does this necessity tell us about salvation?
 - > *It’s not based on how good you are. No matter how good you are, you still need Jesus.*
 - > How do we “miss this boat” at funerals? *We talk about how good a person was, instead of a relationship with Jesus.*
 - Does this cultural phenomenon more accurately indicate the way we truly think of salvation?*
- * Cornelius’ “goodness” presents a problem. (Jean Britton at the campout)
 - Do we need to be good before we come to Jesus?
 - Couldn’t this story be seen as evidence that our goodness draws Jesus to us?

Another explanation:

- * How is Cornelius different from all of the other new Christians so far encountered in Acts?
 - > He was NOT JEWISH!
 - > “God-fearing” – *term used of one who was not a full Jewish proselyte but who believed in one God and respected the moral and ethical teachings of the Jews*
 - Most Jews weren’t READY FOR GENTILES to be fellow Christians!
 - > *Could it be that God was preparing the Jewish hearts for the entrance of Gentile believers by calling a very godly man to be the 1st Gentile Christian?*
 - Of what value were Cornelius’ good works? (v.4)
 - > A MEMORIAL OFFERING, not a means for salvation!!

10: 9-23a PETA (PEOPLE for the EATING of TASTY ANIMALS)

- * vv.11-16 – Peter was reluctant to let go of the dietary laws. Why?
 - > He was holding on to his MEANS OF SALVATION!
 - ill: the man holding on to the branch
- * What did the “unclean animals” represent in Peter’s vision? How do we know?
 - > GENTILES. (see vv. 17-20)

10: 23b – 48 If You Bring Candy, Bring Enough for the Whole Class!!!

- * vv. 25-26 – How do we treat our spiritual heroes? How should we?
 - > We should RESPECT, but not WORSHIP
 - > Q: How might Christians, in error, worship spiritual heroes?
 - ill: meeting John Schlitt

- * The Main Theme of this entire chapter / episode:
The Gospel is FOR EVERYONE – not just the JEWS!

- (1) The Baptism of the HS VALIDATED that salvation is UNIVERSAL
 - > there is no recorded “moment of salvation.”
 - > v.44 – the Spirit-baptism was a VISIBLE event (tongues) which DEMONSTRATED God’s acceptance of and desire for the Gentiles!
 - > This explains why Cornelius received the 2 baptisms in REVERSE ORDER than usual.
- (2) How might we apply this concept in a modern, Gentile-dominant church?
 - > Q: Is there anyone whose potential salvation is hard to swallow?
 - > Q: What does this tell us about how **we** see people vs. how **Jesus** sees them?

- * vv. 34-35 – “God does not show FAVORITISM”
 - > Q: Why is this statement sometimes hard to believe?

Consider:

- The Canaan Conquest in the OT
- Blessed in the West vs. Oppressed in the East
- Wealth vs. Poverty in the church

- > Q: What do we sometimes deem “God’s favor?”
 - *Material blessing?*
 - *Physical well-being? Safety?*
 - *Occupational success?*
- > See Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25
- > So ... what is a better understanding of this statement in v. 34?