

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 2024

Saturday, 5/4 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/5 at 9:00



**God Wants EVERYONE
to be Saved through JESUS!**

Acts 10:34-48 - Join Us at Bethlehem, Parma

Text: Acts 10:34-48 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **Think about true, Bible-based Christianity:** It is BY FAR the most loving religion:

♦ Telling everyone the truth, ♦ calling everyone to repent, and ♦ teaching that Jesus is the way to heaven for **everyone** 😊!

Today, we are back in the book of Acts with sermon **5 of 9**.

Most of the Bible (*Genesis 12 to Acts 9*) has focused on the descendants of Jacob (*a.k.a. the Israelites, a.k.a. the Jews – since the sixth century BC*), **but today** we are in **Acts 10**, when the good news of Jesus began to be proclaimed to the Gentiles – *people like you and me*.

Earlier in the chapter, **Cornelius** – *a God-fearing Gentile* (like the Ethiopian eunuch) and **Peter** – *the apostle*, **saw visions:**

- Cornelius: *To get him to send for Peter.*
- Peter: *To get him to go to the home of Cornelius.*

Furthermore: **Cornelius** did not know **Peter**, and Peter – *being a Jew*, would not go into the house of a Gentile (**10:28**) – *apart from his EYE-OPENING VISION.*

When Peter arrived at the home of Cornelius, who “had called together his relatives and close friends.” Peter entered and Cornelius “fell at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, ‘Stand up; I too am just a man’” (24-26). Then, they each explained what had happened to bring them together in that place. Now, today’s sermon text...

1. **Fear God and Do Right:** ³⁴ **Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality [treating one person better than another, like a Jew better than a Gentile], ³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.** // Earlier in chapter 10, Cornelius is described as “a devout man... who feared God with all his household and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually” (10:2). **God welcomes all such people!**
2. **Things Cornelius Heard about Jesus:** ³⁶ **The word which [God] sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace [forgiveness and reconciliation] through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)— ³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. ³⁸ You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”** // Jesus’ ministry was **SO AMAZING** that everyone certainly heard about ▶His teaching with authority and ▶His countless miracles!
3. **Peter’s Eyewitness Testimony:** ³⁹ **“We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. ⁴⁰ God raised Him up on the third day and**

granted that He become visible, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. // The amazing things Cornelius had heard, ***Peter confirmed them to be true*** – especially **✦ Jesus'** death on a cross, **✦ Jesus'** third-day resurrection, and **✦ many** seeing Jesus risen and alive!

4. **Jesus' Command to His Followers:** ⁴² **And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly [seriously] to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.** // These are the key things to teach about Jesus:
- a. **"Judge of the living and the dead"**: In **John 5:22**, Jesus said this about the Father, **"He has given all judgment to the Son."** Jesus alone will say who *knows Him and is saved* **and has condemned himself through rejection.**
 - b. **"Of Him all the prophets bear witness"**: Paul in **Romans 3:21** (NIV), **"...the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify."**
 - c. **"everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins"**: Jesus said these words to Paul after he was converted, **"I am sending you to [the Gentiles] to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me"** (Acts 26:17-18 NIV).
5. **Confirmation of God's Love for Gentiles:** ⁴⁴ **While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ All the**

circumcised believers [Jews] who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.

- a. **Why the Past Separation?** God promised to send the Messiah as a descendant of Jacob (*a.k.a. Israel*), so He commanded separation to prevent the Israelites from being pulled away by the false gods of the Gentiles.
- b. **Why the Current Union?** Now that Jesus' saving work is finished, God is calling everyone to turn from his sins and trust in Jesus for eternal life.
- c. **Summary:** After 2,000 years of separation, the speaking in tongues was used to convince all who were present that Gentiles can also be saved through Jesus. Lenski made this observation: **"We have these three in a direct line: [Acts] 2:2-13 [Jews]; 8:15-17 [Samaritans]; and now 10:44-46 [Gentiles]. ...to show that God made no difference between them (432)."**

6. **Baptism:** Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ **"Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?" ⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days. // Like the eunuch last week, they: **♦heard, ♦by the HS understood and believed, and ♦were baptized into Christ.****

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, since You enabled the speaking of tongues with each group, *we are even more certain that salvation through Jesus is for everyone.* **TY** for saving us! **Now**, speak through us to be an eternal blessing to others!

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube** and **Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"
Facebook: "Bethlehem Parma" / **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230