

## The Workings of God

### Acts 10

#### I. Intro

- A. God has a plan
- B. God's plan is best
- C. God's plan is blessed

#### II. Text

##### A. Verses 1-8

- 1. Cornelius was:
  - a) A gentile
  - b) A roman
  - c) A soldier
  - d) A Centurion: leader of 100 men in a prominent position at Caesarea
    - (1) Caesarea by the sea:
      - (a) Huge palace for Caesar
      - (b) Became a capital for the region
    - (2) In 22 BCE, Herod began construction of a deep-sea harbour named Sebastos (see below) and built storerooms, markets, wide roads, baths, temples to Rome and Augustus, and imposing public buildings.[9] Herod built his palace on a promontory jutting out into the sea, with a decorative pool surrounded by stoas.[2][8] Every five years the city hosted major sports competitions, gladiator games, and theatrical productions in its theatre overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.[10]
    - (3) Freshwater aqueduct built from the top of mount Carmel.
- 2. He was a spiritual man, but not a believer, became known as the first gentile convert
- 3. God grabbed his attention with a vision

##### B. Verses 9-16

- 1. Peter also had a vision
- 2. This vision would have changed Peter's entire paradigm

##### C. Verses 17-23

- 1. Peter is wrestling with the vision
- 2. The men sent by Cornelius show up

##### D. Verses 24-33

- 1. Stand up, I too am a man (proper perspective)
- 2. Start the conversation from the right place

##### E. Verses 34-43

- 1. The message
- 2. Christ crucified and resurrected

##### F. Verses 44-48

- 1. The response
- 2. The New Jewish believers now wrestled with the new Gentile believers, and what to do about their baptism.

#### III. Point

##### **A. God's Symphony**

- 1. God revealed Himself to Cornelius at the same time He was working in the life of Peter.
- 2. Cornelius was told to send for Peter, and Peter was being taught about God's plan to reach the Gentiles.
- 3. Obedience from both men was key to God's plan.
- 4. **When you have a moment to step back and look at the way God has worked, it is a true marvel.**
  - a) He can begin a work decades before the need is realized and met.

- b) An acorn can grow into a tree, and then be turned to lumber, and then be used to provide structure, warmth, or more trees...but the plan is decades in the making.
- 5. **God's plans are seemingly a lot of random events that converge at the proper time for the plan of God to succeed.**

## **B. God's Message**

- 1. **God shows no partiality**
- 2. Christ died that Gentiles and Jews alike could come to faith
- 3. God's plan was to reveal the messiah first to the Jewish people, then to the Gentiles.
- 4. God's plan was always to spread this message to the world, but to teach it through the chosen nation.
  - a) We are grafted into the vine
  - b) But are just as much a part of the vine as any other people
- 5. **There is only one way to be saved, and there is no partiality.**
- 6. **John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**
- 7. **Galatians 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.**

## **C. Man's Role**

- 1. **Believe**
  - a) John 6:35-36: 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.
  - b) John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.
  - c) John 6: 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."
- 2. **Faith**
  - a) Faith comes with evidence
  - b) Faith without works is dead
- 3. **Respond**
  - a) Ecc 12:13-14 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.[c] 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with[d] every secret thing, whether good or evil.
  - b) Our belief will produce a result, and we have a responsibility to yield to God.

IV. Close