



Acts of the Apostles

Lesson 8

Witness to the World

“...there's a sense in which these two chapters [10 & 11] are among the most important chapters in the entire New Testament in an understanding of what the nature of God's purpose in this world is and in our understanding of what the church is, and of what the mission of the church ought to be.”

Derek Thomas

- Cornelius
- Peter preaches to gentiles
- Judaisers
- What is a Christian?
- God's Guidance
- To the ends of the earth
- Antioch
- A new name

Mark 7:14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand. 15 There is nothing outside of a person that can defile him by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles him.”

Eph 2:11-22 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



1. Luke introduces us to a centurion (an officer in charge of 100 men) named Cornelius.
 - a. How does Luke describe Cornelius? (vv. 1–2)
 - b. What kind of reputation does Cornelius have in the community? (v. 22)

2. This vision and the interchange between God and Peter are repeated three times (v. 16).
 - a. What does God tell Peter to do? (v.13)
 - b. What is Peter's response to the Lord's command? (v. 14)
 - c. Why do you think he responds in this way? (□ Lev. 11)
 - d. How does God address Peter's protest? (v. 15)

3. God is preparing Peter to participate in the radical new era that God is bringing about. What greater purpose does God want Peter to understand through this vision? (Gen. 12:1–3; Gal. 3:6–9, 26–29; Mt. 28:19–20a; Eph. 2:11–19)

4. Peter and six other circumcised Jewish believers (11:12) begin the two-day journey to Cornelius's house in Caesarea.
 - a. How has God reassured Peter that he should go? (vv. 19–22)
 - b. Why was such reassurance necessary? (v. 28a; Lev. 20:26)

5. Like Peter, do you hold onto any beliefs that might stand as a barrier between you and others and hinder your gospel witness? Does what God is doing in this passage challenge you to see others differently?