

CHAPTER 10

THERE was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian *band*,

2 A devout *man*, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for *one* Simon, whose surname is Peter:

6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of

them that waited on him continually;

8 And when he had declared all *these* things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

9 ¶ On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

15 And the voice *spake* unto him

again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common.

16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

19 ¶ While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what *is* the cause wherefore ye are come?

22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

23 Then called he them in, and lodged *them*. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped *him*.

26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

29 Therefore came I *unto you* without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a

man stood before me in bright clothing,

31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

32 Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of *one* Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

34 ¶ Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

36 The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

37 That word, *I say*, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

38 How God anointed Jesus of

Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

44 ¶ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

CHAPTER 11

AND the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,

3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

4 But Peter rehearsed *the matter* from the beginning, and expounded *it* by order unto them, saying,

5 I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me:

6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered,

and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

7 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat.

8 But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.

9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common.

10 And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven.

11 And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me.

12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

19 ¶ Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

22 ¶ Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23 Who, when he came, and had

seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

27 ¶ And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 10 is one of the most important chapters in the entire Book of Acts. It records the opening of the door of faith to the Gentiles. Peter had used the keys of the Kingdom given to him in Matthew 16:19 to open the door of faith to the Jews (Acts 2), and the Samaritans (Acts 8:14). He would now complete his special ministry during this period of transition by opening the door to the Gentiles (see Acts 15:6-11).

In this chapter we learn of the relationship between the believers at Jerusalem and the Gentile believers. We must note that this is not a race prejudice, but rather a misunderstanding of the purposes of God. The Old Testament had pictured an earthly kingdom, with Israel blessing the Gentiles through the reign of the Messiah, but the nation had rejected Christ, and now the Gospel was being presented to the Gentile nation for the first time. Both Jew and Gentile stand condemned and can be saved only through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that we must have a personal relationship with Him and be born-again in order to see or enter the Kingdom of heaven.

In the first part of our reading for today we see the church at Jerusalem accepting the Gentiles. In the middle part of chapter 11 we find the church at Jerusalem encouraging the Gentiles; and then, in the latter verses, we even find the church at Jerusalem accepting aid from them. This can be a great lesson to churches throughout our country today. Many of our churches are involved in majoring on the minors who forget that Christ wants His children to work together. When an individual or church loses sight of the calling to reproduce and preach the Gospel, and gets caught up in jealousies, backbiting, and criticizing everyone else's work, there is something drastically wrong with that individual or church. God has given us the Great Commission, to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. We can do this individually and collectively, and we who are truly born-again Christians should work together toward this end. Fundamental Baptist Church has been called a soul-winning church and this is what we believe it to be; but we never want to be guilty of being too large or too busy to help a brother in need, or to help another church that is in distress. Fundamental Baptist Church is what she is today because of the financial and spiritual help of God's people. I believe this lesson is clearly given to us in chapter 11. We should, as brothers in Christ, be a definite support and help to our fellow Christians.

Also in today's reading we find that the disciples

were called Christians first in Antioch. The word "Christian" is a world-wide word today, and is grossly misunderstood by many people. Church members are called Christians, and good moral people are called Christians; but God's definition of a Christian is one who has been born-again by the blood of Christ, and has trusted completely in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and is now living a Christ-like life. A Bible Christian is one who is Christ-like, and one who has given his heart and life to serving Christ. Are you that type Christian? Am I that type Christian? This question would bear being asked to every person who proclaims the name of Christ.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out" (Proverbs 13:9).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 37: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1731

WILLIAM COWPER WAS BORN.

He was an English poet and hymn writer. His greatest hymn, no doubt, was "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood." Let us sing it together today.

THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD

*There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.*

*The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away:
Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away,
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.*

*Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more:*

*Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more.*

*E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die:
And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.*

*Then in a nobler, sweeter song,
I'll sing Thy power to save,
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave:
Lies silent in the grave,
Lies silent in the grave;
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave.*

1794

JOHN WITHERSPOON DIED.

Witherspoon was a Presbyterian minister and the only church man that was afforded the privilege of signing the Declaration of Independence. He was one of the early presidents of Princeton University, then called the College of New Jersey. It was said that he was thoroughly evangelical.

1965

THE DEATH OF EVERT SWANSON.

Evert Swanson was the founder of Compassion, the largest orphanage work in Korea. Swanson was a leading personality in the Baptist General Conference, but his influence went well beyond the boundaries of any denomination. He was a successful pastor, evangelist, and soloist before his missionary endeavors. In 1951 he saw a need in Korea. Before he died, it is said that he had 20,000 orphans in 175 orphanages and supported 375 native preachers. A dear friend attended his funeral service and said they played a recording of Mr. Swanson singing, "I'll Be There." It was said to be one of the most moving funerals ever witnessed.

JACOB DESHAZZER WAS BORN.

Here is a tremendous story that came out of World War II. He was in the Doolittle squadron that first bombed Tokyo in 1942. He was shot down, cap-

ured, imprisoned, and almost died after forty months of confinement. He was then rescued and brought back to the states, studied at Seattle Pacific College, and went back to the Japanese people as a missionary. He won thousands to Jesus Christ and has been a faithful missionary to Japan. He was converted, it is said, on June 8, 1944, in a Japanese prison camp. A Japanese guard had given him one of his deceased buddies' New Testaments, and as he read Romans 10:9, he was converted. Let us all read it together. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Let us pray for the work in Japan today. Pray for God's blessings on the work there.

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

1884

Colonization of Africa organized at international conference in Berlin, November 15, February 26.

1887

Inventor Granville T. Woods patented his synchronous multiplier railway telegraph.

1897

Death of John Mercer Langston (67), Washington, D.C.

One hundred and twenty-three blacks reported lynched in 1897.

Langston University and Voorhees College founded.

1979

Study compiled by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith indicated a sharp rise in Ku Klux Klan activity. Study said Klan membership in 22 states increased from 8,000 to 10,000 in the twenty-month period ending in November, 1979, and that the number of sympathizers grew from 30,000 to 100,000.

Spingarn Medal awarded to Rosa L. Parks, who was the Catalyst in the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-56.

Nobel Prize in economics awarded to Professor Arthur Lewis of Princeton. He was the first black cited in a category other than peace.

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 117

AUTHOR: Unknown

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

It was written to be a chorus. Just like we have choir arrangements, congregational songs and choruses, this, the shortest chapter in the Bible and the shortest of the Psalms, was sung like we sing our choruses.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

It was used around the family circle and in informal gatherings as well as occasionally in a public worship in just the same manner that we would use choruses today.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:

Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.

D. THE ERROR OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HEAVEN

(Assignment 37)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning,” page xiii near the front of this book.)

() Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

() Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

() Proverbs 30:12

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

() Matthew 7:13

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

() Matthew 7:14

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.