

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Salvation Comes To The Gentiles, Pt 4

Acts 10:24-35

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PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb: In this examination of the story of Cornelius and Peter we see how God uses the salvation of Cornelius and his household to show both the impartiality of God in salvation and the relationship between faith and works. This sermon focuses upon the idea of true faith produces works consistent with a changed heart.

I. Introduction.

A. **Read vss 24-35.**

B. Today we will begin to focus on that last verse for in it we see what it is that makes a person acceptable to God.

C. Last Lord's Day we considered the realization Peter had regarding the impartiality of God.

D. So now we must turn our attention to what it means to be welcomed and accepted by God. And to do this we will consider the critical relationship between faith and works.

1. Verse 35 is very important to see and understand "*but in every nation the one who fears Him and does righteousness is welcome to Him.*" Let us break this passage down together and then explore the implications.

a. First, it is missions oriented. "Every nation." The term is *ethnos* where we get terms like ethnic and ethnicity.

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b. Second, not everyone is included in this statement. It is limited here to those who fears God and does what is right.

c. Third, the grand and glorious news is that God welcomes all those who fear Him and do what is right.

2. So this is my question to you today. Has God welcomed you? Does God claim you as His own? Do you want to be acceptable to God?

II. The gospel call to fear and to obey.

A. To understand what Peter is saying requires us to go to the source of his words—the Old Testament.

1. Genesis 22:12
2. Exodus 18:21
3. Ecclesiastes 8:12-13
4. 2 Chronicles 19:6-9
5. Job 28:28
6. Psalm 111:10

B. To properly frame this whole subject of the fear of God and personal righteousness you must first understand certain foundational truths about God and man:

1. First, that all of mankind is dead in its sin.
 - a. Each man, woman and child in the room has no right and no ability to stand before God and be acceptable to Him. Which is why the statement by Peter is so astounding.
 - b. The Bible tells us that everyday every person who has not been saved willingly rejects God.
 - (1) (Romans 3:9-18)
 - (2) Note how there is the bracketing of the state of righteousness at the beginning and the lack of a fear of God at the end. These are descriptions of the state of a person's heart, their mind set.

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- (3) Then in between these two statements is a list of things mankind does. The works performed and lived out.
 - c. “Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Romans 2:4-5)
 - d. And in giving out this wrath God shall be utterly impartial. Your appeals to have mercy shall not be heard. For as the bible says in Ephesians 2:3, we are simply children of wrath.
 - e. Ephesians 5:3-6.
 - f. Colossians 3:5-9.
2. Second, the Bible tells us that we must be perfect to ever hope to be with God.
 - a. We cannot see God, nor live with God, nor worship God if we are less than perfect. Which puts us in a grave position.
 - b. That is the sentence upon every human—death, eternal death.
 - c. John 3:16-19, 36.
3. Third, the Bible says that Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, came to save His people from their sins.

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4. Fourth, the Bible then shows that what we cannot do, God does.
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- C. Where is our boasting then?
 1. The only boasting we can do is not in ourselves but in Jesus Christ. We must boast in our glorious God alone.
 2. We do not start the process of salvation and we most certainly do not finish it. From the beginning to the end it is a gracious, merciful work of God on our behalf.
 - D. And it is here that we can see the relationship of fear and obedience or personal righteousness.
 1. What does it mean to fear God? In the New Testament it is said differently but means the same, it is to believe in God.
 2. But they do not sound the same do they? Fear and believe are the same and it is paramount to see this.
 3. The bible will use various terms to describe this side of becoming a follower of Jesus Christ. It will say: believe, fear, follow, hope, love, and come.
 - a. These all describe in a slightly different shade the idea of fearing God or believing in Jesus Christ.
 - b. It is to have a right apprehension of the your Creator, of His supremacy and His glory, of His strength and His majesty. It is to see Him and Him alone as God and Lord.
 4. But what does this look like? Turn to James 2:14ff.

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III. Conclusion.

- A. Let this be heard and be understood. Churches are full of semi-conversions to Christ.
 - 1. These are counterfeits and they cannot save. Rather, they heap judgment upon the heads of those who cling to them.
 - 2. The gospel call is not to add Jesus into your life.
 - 3. The commands are clear. Believe, trust, follow, love.
 - 4. But there are other ways this is expressed: one must die to themselves and live for Christ. One must follow and obey Jesus Christ as Lord. One is to take up his own cross and follow after Jesus. One is to repent, to turn from sin and turn to Christ in all ways.
 - 5. The demands of the gospel are full and life-altering. And to seek to go any other way is to enter into a cul-de-sac of hopelessness where the end produces only empty, vague feelings; dead religious works, and eternal damnation.
- B. To be accepted by God begins with the fear of God and is shown by a righteous life. A lifelong path of repentance. As the old song goes, “Trust and obey, for there is no other way.”

Benediction

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.