

# Acts 10:34-11:18 – 12 July 2020

## “Who’s Leading This Thing, Anyways?”

### Introduction

Jesus has ordained there to be an “Age of the Church” empowered by His HS where He pours His attention toward THE WHOLE WORLD

Acts 8:1 – Persecution has scattered the church

In Acts 9:32 Peter began to go throughout the country.

It may seem very random where he goes, but it’s God-ordained. (Lydda, Sharon, Joppa)

Act 10 – A Gentile, Cornelius & Peter receive visions instructing them to meet each other

Acts 10:34 – Peter begins to speak regarding why He thinks that the Lord has drawn him here to Cornelius

God has a mission to accomplish through all those that are ready...are you ready?.....Peter is ready!

**Today, 3 Indicators Jesus is leading God’s church**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Indicator: He Defeated Death (Chap 10:34-42)**

**\*\*We know Jesus Christ is leading b/c it's His death & resurrection that opens the way into something new**

**Read Vs 34-35**

1. The message of the cross is for everyone!
2. This isn't saying that all that live 'good' are accepted into everlasting life
  - a. It means all those that fear God & strive for goodness will be given the truth of Jesus Christ
  - b. Peter's point is to say, these folks are NOT EXCLUDED from being given the Gospel

**Read Vs 36-38**

1. Vs 38 – Jesus went about doing good
  - a. But this was his day to day life
  - b. Not His ultimate mission
2. Vs 36 – Apostles; preaching peace “by Jesus”
  - a. His mission was to bring peace between God & man

## Read Vs 39-40

1. Christ paid the price for others, not Himself
2. God the Father confirmed it by raising Him back to life forever.
3. The Apostles only role is to be witnesses
  - a. To share this message
    - i. What they have, to give to others

## Read Vs 41-42

1. They were chosen b/c they would be strong witnesses, having been with Christ
2. They were to focus on Jesus' power over death
  - a. He became the Judge of those alive & dead b/c He defeated death and now owns it!
  - b. His resurrection proves He's Lord over all
    - i. Turn to Col 1:15-21
    - ii. Over, people, over spiritual powers
    - iii. He owns all by virtue of creating it
    - iv. He owns all by virtue of redeeming it!

## We Know Jesus Is Leading God's Church B/c (App)

1. It's His work that has the power to defeat death
2. So, we don't have to earn salvation day by day
3. So, we're not offering our amazing church or our own greatness, we're offering Christ Crucified
  - a. Lead people to follow Christ, He has power over death, not us.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Indicator: He Grants Everlasting Life (Chap 10:43-48)**

Read Vs 43

1. Jesus not only has the power to judge everyone b/c He defeated death; but He will offer forgiveness to those who come to Him.
2. Read Isa 53:11
3. The only way to gain everlasting life is to come thru Jesus Christ...who earned it.

## Read Vs 44-48

1. No formula/order for these things to occur.
  - a. Acts 2:38 (Jeru) – Word, Baptized, Spirit
  - b. Acts 8:12-17 (Samaria) – Word, Baptized, then later the laying on of hands, Spirit
  - c. Acts 9:18 (Paul) – Word, then Bap & Spirit
  - d. Acts 10 (Here) – Word, Spirit then baptize
  - e. The only requirement is the preaching of Christ and His powerful resurrection!
2. The rituals (laying on of hands & baptism) are pictures to help us (& the world) better understand what's happening in this transaction
  - a. God is the One who grants life and the H.S.
  - b. When person makes that secret transaction within their individual heart, God brings life.

We know Jesus Is Leading God's Church B/c (App)

1. It's Him that grants everlasting life
2. So, we should take the pressure off ourselves
  - a. We preach, but He saves those who come

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Indicator: He Puts People Together To Share His Gospel (Chap 11:1-17)**

Read Vs 1-3

1. Peter is confronted by Jewish Believers
2. Their problem: “Why did you go to unclean Gentiles to eat and fellowship?”
3. Peter will have to explain how he was put together with these Gentiles.
4. Side Note: Notice how believers are referred to – as those that “received the Word of God”.

Read Vs 4-12

1. So Peter rehearses his vision from God
  - a. Witnessing to unbelievers OR to the Church is just explaining what’s already happened
2. He’s explaining how God brought them together
  - a. As God teaches and grows us, we become more available in other’s lives.
  - b. God molds us to have His vision, not our own.

## Read Vs 13-14

1. Peter rehearses Cornelius' vision from God
2. This is just a retelling of what GOD did to bring them together
3. Remember, it's not given to angels to minister the Gospel, it's Christian's jobs.
4. So if "wit" is "having understanding"
  - a. God puts together the witness w/ the witless
  - b. This is His doing, to bring "light unto the Gentiles". (Luke 2:32)
  - c. Read II Cor 4:6 – God's light has been given to us to share
  - d. Turn to Acts 13:46-47 – This is indeed the reason that we meet the people that we do.

## Read Vs 15-17

1. Peter rehearses the giving of the Spirit
2. Once the people were obedient to come together; God took over.

- a. Would to God that He would take over all things that we do
- b. I prep Bible Studies; but prefer it when the Lord gives spontaneous verses from His Word thru-out the prepared remarks from His Word.

We know Jesus Is Leading God's Church B/c (App)

- 1. It's Him that puts people together to share His Gospel
- 2. So, let's look around at the people God has ordained to be in our lives.....
  - a. These are the ones we're supposed to share Christ with!

# **Here's The Real Question: Are We Willing To Accept God's Lead? (Chap 11:18)**

Read Vs 18

1. Their Problem:
  - a. “You went to unclean men?”
2. Their Answer:
  - a. “So God has cleansed the Gentiles!”
3. This was a paradigm shift for them
  - a. They couldn't imagine that God would cleanse the Gentiles.
  - b. New life changes everything
    - i. Don't consider the old life
    - ii. We can't consider the old life
4. They accepted that it was God that was doing a work...and that's all that mattered.

## Conclusion

So, we've seen 3 Indications that Jesus is leading God's Church

### **1. Jesus is leading b/c He defeated death**

- a. He's done all the work
- b. We don't have to earn salvation day by day
- c. We're not offering church, or self, we're offering Christ's death & resurrection
- d. *Are you willing to accept that?*

### **2. Jesus is leading b/c He grants everlasting life**

- a. He hasn't just gained power over death, but He freely/continually is offering it out!
- b. We should take the pressure off ourselves; we do the preaching – He does the saving!
- c. *Are you willing to accept that?*

### **3. Jesus is leading b/c He puts people together to share His Gospel**

- a. Become ready witnesses; go where He leads.
- b. We're designed to preach to those around us
- c. *Are you willing to accept that?*