



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Leaders and the Gentile Pentecost

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Acts 10:34-48 *“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35) But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. 36) The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—37) that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38) how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by 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 killed by hanging on a tree. 40) Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41) Not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42) And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. 43) To Him all the prophets witnessed that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.’ 44) While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45) And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46) For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47) ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ 48) And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.” (NKJV)*

“PETER’S STORY TAKES SEVENTY-SEVEN VERSES TO TELL AND REPEATS HIS VISION TWICE. GOD WANTED TO MAKE SURE WE DID NOT MISS THIS POINT. GOD HAS ENLARGED PETER BY POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT WHEN HE PERFORMED GREAT MIRACLES IN A GENTILE ENVIRONMENT, THEN BY A VISION OF HIS NARROWNESS, AND NOW BY FRUITFUL MINISTRY WITH GENTILES. PETER NOW UNDERSTOOD THAT CHRIST WAS FOR EVERYONE! HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT THE GOSPEL COULD DO FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE.” KENT HUGHES

What is the significance of Peter opening his mouth to speak? How does the Universal Lordship of Jesus Christ relate to universal opportunity? Why did John “preach” his baptism? Who are the witnesses mentioned twice in this passage? On what basis are all the nations suddenly included in the expansion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JANUARY 28: ACTS 11:1-18 *THE SEVEN DEFEND GOD’S INCLUDING GENTILE LEADERS*
- FEBRUARY 4: ACTS 11:19-30 *A LEADERSHIP OF OTHERS-CENTERED LOVE*

As Luke the Medical Doctor has written this treatise of the history of the Church to Theophilus the Governor, he has presented Christ’s geopolitical strategy of evangelism in Acts 1:8. The drama has moved from Jews in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, to Samaria, the next closest capital of half-Jews, to Caesarea, the Roman capital over the greater region of Israel. Here we find ourselves in the next to the last, of the dramatic set of seven scenes, introducing the explosive expansion of the Church by the divinely ordained inclusion of full-blooded Gentiles. This extraordinary expansion clearly has four dimensions: numerical, geographical, political and interracial. Peter had been given the “keys to the kingdom” (Mt. 16:19) and he has led this magnificent multiplication

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR EAST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR EAST CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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from the Jewish Pentecost where the membership of the Jerusalem Church grew from 120 to 3000 on the day of Pentecost, then to 5000 men, to exponential growth where they “*continually greatly multiplied exceedingly*” and “*especially, a great crowd of priests became continually obedient to the faith*” (Acts 6:7). That multiplication continued in Samaria, spread to Ethiopia, and now Caesarea.

“THE SCRIPTURE USETH THIS PHRASE [“*OPENED HIS MOUTH*”] WHEN IT DOTTH SIGNIFY THAT THERE WAS ANY GRAVE OR WEIGHTY ORATION OR SPEECH TO BE MADE.”

JOHN CALVIN

I. JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL ACTS 10:34-36

This sermon is so significant, it is presented the same way as the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:2, “*He opened His mouth and taught them.*” Now the “*truth*” was dawning on Peter which millenniums of Jewish prejudice had hindered, “*God shows no partiality.*” Then Peter qualifies it with emphasis, “*But instead, in every nation, whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*” Peter is aligning the visions and leading of the Spirit to declare that the Gentiles are no longer enemies. Even this Roman occupation officer, especially since his job was to enforce the authority of Roman Law upon the Jews. Peter preaches peace to this leader’s soul as we should demonstrate to our leaders with 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

“SALVATION IS OFFERED TO ALL BECAUSE JESUS IS LORD OF ALL.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

II. JESUS CHRIST IS JUDGE OF ALL ACTS 10:37-43

Peter preaches, starting with what they already knew. “*That word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John*

preached.” John Preached one message to everyone, both the liberals and the conservatives, “*Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!*” (Mt. 3:2) And Jesus preached precisely the same (Mt. 4:17). They understood first their need to repent! We must understand the same! Jesus, though lowly, “*from Nazareth*” was the Messiah, “*God anointed*” by a work of the Trinity. His work proved His deity in goodness and deliverance from the devil. Peter assumes the responsibility to be a witness of the life and death of Christ and especially His resurrection. Not only was Jesus visible in a human body but Peter even “*ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead,*” proving that he was not a spirit or apparition. Most importantly, “*He commanded us to preach*” that He was “*ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.*” Jesus is the only Justice of the Sovereign Supreme Court of Heaven, who sits upon “*the great white throne*” (Rev. 20:11-15, 21:8). But, “*whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.*” They believed and received forgiveness of sin and the Holy Spirit!

“BECAUSE JESUS IS GOD AND INFINITE, HIS DEATH HAD INEXHAUSTABLE VALUE. WHEN WE TRUST IN HIM, COMING TO GOD ON THE BASIS OF HIS DEATH, OUR SIN IS REMOVED. AND WHAT WAS BEFORE A RELATIONSHIP OF HOSTILITY BECOMES A BOND OF PEACE.”

JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

III. JESUS CHRIST GIVES HIS SPIRIT ACTS 10:44-48

This most powerful of Peter’s sermons was suddenly interrupted by the Holy Spirit immediately indwelling these who had believed every word Peter has spoken. The six Jewish believers with Peter were astonished that such non-Jewish believers were given the Holy Spirit in the same way as the Apostles at Pentecost! These Gentiles must have spoken Hebrew to “*magnify God*” and be understood by the Jews. The new Believer’s first step of obedience is baptism and Peter commanded it!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Is Jesus Christ your Lord and do you demonstrate it by prayer and witness to those even against you or above you?
- 2) Since Jesus will be your judge in eternity, why not receive His remission of sins now before it is too late?
- 3) If you have believed and received Jesus Christ, have you been obedient in baptism and are you walking in the Spirit?