

**"Peter's Ministry"**

**Part 8**

**Acts 10**

**Introduction:** Tonight, in our study of Acts we are going to examine the message that Peter shared with Cornelius and his house. It is a message about Jesus Christ that is full of spiritual "gold".

➤ **The Gentiles and the Body of Christ**

**Part 6**

**Notice Acts 10:34-35**

We looked at these two verses last week so we will not spend much time on them again. Peter was saying here that "whosoever will" may come and when they do turn to Jesus Christ, He will accept them regardless of what they have done or what nation they are from. In verse 35 Peter describes the characteristics of a believer, he is not teaching that anyone is saved by works. Those who fear God and work righteousness can only be believers.

**Proverbs 19:23**

<sup>23</sup> *The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.*

**Romans 6:20**

<sup>20</sup> *For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

**Notice Acts 10:36**

The words "Lord of all" refer to Jesus Christ being Lord of all nations. He is sovereign over every nation in the world.

**Daniel 2:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

<sup>21</sup> *And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

**Daniel 4:17**

*17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*

Notice Acts 10:36 again.

I want you to notice that peace only comes through Jesus Christ. This echoes the message of the angels the night Jesus was born.

**Luke 2:11-14**

*11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Jesus came into this world to bring peace in several ways.

**1. Peace between God and man. (Peace with God)**

**Romans 5:1-2, 9-10**

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

*2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

*9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

*10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

**2. Peace in the heart of man. (Peace of God)**

**Philippians 4:6-9**

*6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

<sup>9</sup> Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

### 3. Peace among mankind.

#### Acts 1:13-14a

<sup>13</sup> And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

<sup>14</sup> These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,

We looked at this before and we considered how Simon the zealot and Matthew the tax collector were in one accord. This is what the Gospel of Jesus Christ does. It breaks down walls and barriers between mankind.

This is by the way exactly what is needed in our world today. There will never be peace without Jesus Christ.

#### Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The peace which the world longs for will be established in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

#### Notice Acts 10:37-38

Here Peter makes a very interesting statement. He says to Cornelius, "The word ye know". Cornelius and his house had heard of Jesus. The Romans knew of His works for the word had traveled through the different cities of the works which Jesus did. Jesus had been anointed by the Father to come to this earth and manifest Him to the world.

**Luke 4:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> *And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,*

<sup>18</sup> *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

<sup>19</sup> *To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

<sup>20</sup> *And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.*

Let us notice where Jesus read from in Isaiah.

**Isaiah 61:1-3**

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*

<sup>2</sup> *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*

<sup>3</sup> *To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

Jesus stopped after the words, "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord", because the rest of this did not pertain to His first coming but it pertains to His second coming.

**Notice Acts 10:39-40**

Here in this verse Peter tells Cornelius that Jesus was hanged on a tree. It is interesting that Peter never says that Jesus was on the cross. He always says He was on the tree.

**Acts 5:29-30**

<sup>29</sup> Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

<sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

**1 Peter 2:24**

<sup>24</sup> Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Why does Peter always refer to the cross as the tree? We do not know for sure but most likely it is because he is thinking of what is recorded in Deuteronomy.

**Deuteronomy 21:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:

<sup>23</sup> His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Peter understood that when Jesus went to the cross, He was cursed of God for him.

**Galatians 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

It seems that Peter would never forget what he was before he met Jesus. He refused to forget that it was his sins that sent His Lord to the tree where He would die in his place. Peter had many flaws just as we all do, but he would never lose sight of what Jesus did for Him when He was crucified, buried, and rose again.

**Application:**

If more believers were like Peter the church would be very different. There are many believers who seem to forget what and who they were before they were saved., They seem to forget that the same sin nature that is in the rebellious sinner is still in them. Too many want to be critical of new believers and believers who struggle to get free from the grave clothes. Some act as though they are righteous in position and practice and when others struggle, they are quick to condemn. Might I remind each of us that we are still sinners

and the good/righteousness that shows in our lives is because of Christ in us, not because we have somehow managed to produce righteousness on our own.

**Notice Acts 10:40-41**

It is interesting that after the resurrection Jesus only showed Himself to believers and not to unbelievers.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

<sup>3</sup> *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

<sup>4</sup> *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

<sup>5</sup> *And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*

<sup>6</sup> *After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.*

<sup>7</sup> *After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.*

<sup>8</sup> *And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*

Why did He appear to only believers? The believers and namely the Apostles would be the people who would need encouragement for what they would face in the future. Many of them would be required to give their lives for the cause of Jesus Christ. One of the greatest proofs of the resurrection is how the Apostles suffered and died for Jesus. We can be sure that if Jesus died on the cross and never came out of the grave that these men would never have given their lives for Him. But because they witnessed Him after He was resurrected this gave them the boldness to stand in the face of death and to proclaim His name.

**Conclusion:**

**Notice Acts 10:41 again.**

Peter makes it clear that they ate and drank with the Lord after His resurrection. Jesus proved to His apostles that He was not a spirit or ghost, but that He had a genuine resurrection body which could be touched and which could partake of food and drink. This showed His humanity and His deity. His deity was seen in the resurrection and His humanity is seen in Him consuming food. Our Savior lives and one day soon we shall see Him in His resurrected body.