

**"Peter's Ministry"**

**Part 9**

**Acts 10**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Acts we stopped on Acts 10:41 which is in the midst of Peter's message to Cornelius and his house.

**Notice Acts 10:41**

We were looking at how Jesus revealed Himself after His resurrection only to believers. The reason was because they would be sent into the world to proclaim the Gospel and in this mission, they would face many trials.

**Matthew 10:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

*<sup>17</sup> But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;*

Peter also makes mention in this verse of the fact that he and the apostles did eat and drink with Jesus after the resurrection. Last week I had shared with you a little of the significance of this statement. This 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.

Keep in mind that Luke was inspired by the Holy Spirit when he penned Acts. The Spirit knew the attacks that would come against Jesus Christ and one was a doctrine called Docetism. This is the doctrine that the existence of Jesus, his historical and bodily existence, and above all the human form of Jesus, was mere semblance without any true reality. Mainly it is taken as the belief that Jesus only seemed to be human, and that his human form was an illusion. This doctrine had made its way to the church in the days of the apostles and was something they had to contend with.

**1 John 4:2-3**

*<sup>2</sup> Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

<sup>3</sup> And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

## 2 John 1:7

<sup>7</sup> For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Back to the point, it is very important that we are told the apostles did eat and drink with Jesus Christ after His resurrection because that affirms, He was human and He had a body of flesh. Let me just say that if He did not have a real body of flesh before He went to the cross then we have no hope because He would not be of the human family and would not qualify to be our Savior. If He did not have a body of flesh after the resurrection then that means He was not resurrected and we are then dead in our sins.

## 1 Corinthians 15:14-17

<sup>14</sup> And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

<sup>15</sup> Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

<sup>16</sup> For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Now let us get back to our text.

### ➤ The Gentiles and the Body of Christ Part 7

## Notice Acts 10:42

Here we see that Peter and the other apostles were commanded by the Lord to carry the Gospel out into the world. They were also to testify that the Father hath committed to Jesus Christ all judgment.

## John 5:22, 27

<sup>22</sup> For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

<sup>27</sup> And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

Jesus will be the Judge of the quick/saved at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

*<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

In 1 Corinthians 3 we see some of the details of this judgment.

**1 Corinthians 3:13-15**

*<sup>13</sup> Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

*<sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

*<sup>15</sup> If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

At this judgment, our works will be judged and not our sins. We will be judged for how we used our spiritual gifts which were entrusted to us by the Lord.

**Matthew 25:14-19**

*<sup>14</sup> For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

*<sup>15</sup> And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

*<sup>16</sup> Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.*

*<sup>17</sup> And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

*<sup>18</sup> But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

*<sup>19</sup> After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

Only our works will be judged. Our sins were already judged on the cross when Jesus died for us.

**1 Corinthians 15:3**

<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;

**Isaiah 53:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

**1 John 2:2**

<sup>2</sup> And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus will also be the Judge of the spiritually dead. This will be at the Great White Throne Judgment.

**Revelation 20:11-15**

<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This will be the judgment of the unsaved and this judgment is committed to the Son. Now let me ask a question, "Why is all judgment committed to Jesus Christ and why is the Father not the Judge?"

The answer is that the judgments must be carried out by a human being if humans are to be judged. If the Father was the Judge, then the sinner could plead that the Father did

not understand what it was like to face temptation as a human being. But not one person being judged will be able to say that of Jesus the Judge.

**Hebrews 4:15**

*<sup>15</sup> For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Jesus faced temptation and He remained sinless. He therefore is the Perfect Man to judge all people. He knows the heart of every person. Nothing will escape Him on judgment day.

**Romans 2:16**

*<sup>16</sup> In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

So, we believers will be judged by a human being at the Judgment Seat of Christ and the unsaved will be judged by a human being at the Great White throne. No one will be able to say, "You don't know what it was like to live in this world of sin." Jesus not only knows because He lived here and faced the temptations, but He also did it with no sin.

**Hebrews 2:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

*<sup>10</sup> For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Jesus was made PERFECT in experience by the sufferings He faced. That "experience" enables Him to be our Great High Priest that can relate to what we face and give us what we need, and it enables Him to be the perfect Judge to judge all of mankind.

**Acts 17:31**

*<sup>31</sup> Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

**Notice Acts 10:43**

Peter tells Cornelius that all the prophets have witnessed that salvation is available to all who will believe in Him. The "whosoever" here refers to everyone including Gentiles.

Notice the words of Whitcomb:

*"The prophets had a lot to say about Gentiles coming to the Lord for salvation. When Israel officially became a nation at Mt. Sinai, they were to function as a "kingdom of priests" (Exodus 19:6), that is, to be mediators between God and the whole human race. They were supposed to be God's means to reach Gentiles. Later on, they forgot about that and became self-centered as a nation. This was true especially at the time when Jesus appeared on the scene. But God always wanted them to reach out to Gentiles. Some of the most miserable missionaries in the history of the world were Jews whom God sent to Gentiles, Jonah being a prime example! Jonah was told to go to Nineveh, but Jonah did not delight in witnessing to Gentiles. Instead, he wanted the Assyrians destroyed, thinking they did not deserve God's mercy."*

The Jews, who were the elect of God had lost sight of one of their purposes in the world. They were to be God's representatives to a lost world so that others might come to know God. But they became elevated in their minds and they saw themselves as superior to the Gentiles. They missed that fact that they were not chosen because they were superior.

#### **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**

*<sup>6</sup> For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*

*<sup>7</sup> The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:*

*<sup>8</sup> But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

God chose Israel out of grace. But the Jews had developed a superior attitude by the time Jesus came to them.

#### **Application/Conclusion:**

The church is the elect of God today. God chose the church to be His representatives to the lost and dying world. Let us never allow ourselves to develop a superior attitude to the point that we think we are better than the lost of the world. It was not for God's grace we could be the drug user or the murderer sitting behind bars. It is because of God's grace that we are His children not because we were better than anyone else.