LESSON 8

THE CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS

Read Acts 9:32-11:18 & Study Note: Defining Terms

FACT QUESTIONS

1. What miracles did Peter perform in Lydda and Joppa? What stood out to you about these miracles? Compare the miracle in Joppa to the miracle recorded in **Mark 5:21-43**.

2. Describe the vision that Cornelius was given. How did he respond to this God-given vision?

3. What was Peter doing when he had a vision from God? What did the Lord tell him to do? Why do you think Peter had such a strong reaction to this vision?

LESSON QUESTIONS

4. How did the Lord convince Peter that the vision was truly from Him? What did Peter do when the men sent by Cornelius arrived?

5. Why was it significant that the Gentiles received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the very same way that the Jewish believers had received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost? How did Peter explain this to the Jewish believers who criticized him?

6. Why do you think it was Peter who opened the door of the Gospel to the Gentiles and not Paul? How was this all part of God's great plan **(Matthew 16:13-19)**?

HEART APPLICATION QUESTIONS

7. Peter received God's Word while praying on a rooftop. How often do you seek God and His Word for truth rather than a friend, a book or even AI?

8. "What is impossible with man is possible with God," Luke 18:27. Whom in your life seems to be far from God? How will you commit to praying for them daily? What changes would you like to see in yourself as you pray for them?

9. How have you been led to serve God out of your "comfort zone"? Is it the workplace, neighborhood, or even a different country? How will you step out in faith for the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Will you ask God to help you have His confidence to be bold for Him?

Memory Verse - Romans 8:9

"You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."

LESSON 8

STUDY NOTES

DEFINING TERMS

Redemption

The meaning of redemption is to buy back. In the Scriptures this term is taken from the ancient commercial world, and in particular, the buying and selling of slaves. One of the most beautiful pictures of redemption in all Scripture is the story of Hosea who purchased his fallen wife, Gomer, from slavery **(Hosea 3)**.

Redemption implies bondage. Mankind was subject to the dominion and curse of sin from the time of the Fall in the Garden of Eden. Jesus said that anyone who sins is a slave to sin **(John 8:34)**. In a secondary sense, the sinner is in bondage to Satan who reigns over the kingdom of this world. Third, mankind is in bondage to death, since all die and the wages of sin is death **(Romans 6:23)**.

In order to be set free from this bondage, Jesus Christ came as Redeemer. He paid the price to redeem mankind. He paid the penalty for sin by His death on the cross. We are set free **(Hebrews 2:14-15)**.

Peter tells us that we have been "redeemed (or ransomed) by the precious blood of Christ" **(1 Peter 1:19)**.

Salvation

Salvation has the general idea of safety and deliverance. Jesus Christ is the author of salvation (Hebrews 5:9). The name Jesus/Joshua means "Jehovah is salvation." Salvation is offered freely to all people but it is conditioned upon repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is a gift **(Romans 6:23)**.

What are we saved from? We are saved from the wrath of God which is His just judgment on sin **(Romans 5:9)**.

There are three aspects to salvation. There is the sense in which we "have been" saved by trusting Christ for salvation (saved from the penalty of sin). There is also the sense in which we are "being saved," as Paul refers to in **Philippians 2:12**: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (saved from the power of sin). Third, there is the sense in which we "will be saved" when we are given our new glorious bodies without the taint of sin (saved from the very presence of sin).

Matthew tells us that Jesus came "to save his people from their sins." **(Matthew 1:21)**

Regeneration

This is the radical change that Jesus described to Nicodemus as being "born again." The concept is of God renovating the heart, the core of a person's being, by implanting a new desire and a new purpose.

In John's prologue, he declared: "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God" **(John 1:12-13)**.

Regeneration is entirely the work of God, through His Spirit, when we confess Jesus as Lord and Savior. **Regeneration is the transition from spiritual death (Eph. 2:1) to spiritual life. Believers are made new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)**.

Justification

This is a legal term. It refers to the judicial act of God pardoning sinners. As sinners, we are estranged from God. **Justification means acceptance on the basis of Christ's finished work on the Cross and receiving the gift of Christ's perfect righteousness to enable you to stand before a holy God.**

Each one must stand before God, the Judge of all the earth. Either your sins are on you, and you stand before Him guilty and awaiting sentencing, or your sins are on Christ, and you are declared, "not guilty."

To be justified is to be eternally secure. When you are declared, "not guilty" by the Almighty, there is no higher court, nothing and no one can undo what God, the Judge of all the earth, has done **(John 10:28-29)**.

Atonement

This term means to make things right again, to be reconciled to God in a right relationship.

On the top of the Ark of the Covenant was the atonement cover or mercy seat of God. This is where God dwelt with His people in the Tabernacle. Once a year the High Priest would bring the blood of a goat and sprinkle it on the mercy seat or atonement cover to make atonement for the people. Therefore, when God looked down at the Ark which contained the Law, the Law the people had broken, He would see the blood. The blood covered their sin, in a most literal sense.

When Christ came, as the Lamb of God, He made atonement for His people through His death on the Cross. By Christ's sacrifice, the sins of every believer are "covered" or atoned for by His blood, and they are reconciled to God **(Romans 5:10-11)**.

Without Christ's shed blood, no one can enter into the presence of God. But the writer of Hebrews says that because Jesus is our Great High Priest, we can "draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" **(Hebrews 4:16)**.

LESSON 8: MESSAGE NOTES

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PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS