

# Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles in Judea and Samaria

## *Peter's enlightenment and the spread of the Gospel Part II*

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

**Introduction:** Our two lessons from Acts chapter 9 were *Living proofs of a man made whole* and the *Legacy of a life lived whole*. How important it surely is to use the resource of our sojourning on this earth for the glory of God. As Peter tarries in Joppa, another phase in God's Gospel presentation to the world is about to begin. First there has to be some work done on the heart of man of God for the Gospel message to continue ( **1 Peter 4:17** *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?* )Peter will be reminded of a prior learning moment in his life and will have to move forward in his walk with the Lord for the work to continue. Likewise you and I have to continue learning and growing in the things of God to move the Gospel out to the uttermost!

- I. **The Devout Man 1-8 (Cornelius)**
- II. **The Determined Man 9-23 (Peter)**
- III. **The Dedicated Man 23-33 (Cornelius/Peter)**
- IV. **The Delivered Man 25-48 (All)**
  - A. **Danger of Idolatry 25-27**
    1. Cornelius is demonstrating civil worship as unto a great man or could have been as some type of incarnate deity; *"Stand up; I also am a man."* **V26**
    2. **Rev 13:4** *And they worshipped the dragon [Satan] which gave power unto the beast [AntiChrist]: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*
      - a. **Ex 15:11**
    3. **Rom 1:18-23/ Psalm 19/ John 1:9 [God's glory, different species of fish]**
    4. **Ezekiel Chapter 8**
    5. **Joh 4:21-24** *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* – True worship in spirit and in truth
    6. **Rev 4:10-11**
    7. Some personal study verses on "idolatry": **1 Sam 15:23, Acts 17:16, 1 Cor 10:14, Gal 5:20, Col 3:5. "Worship of Jesus": Matt 2:11, 8:2, 9:18, 14:33, 15:25, 28:9,17. Denied by others: Judges 13:16, 1 Chr 21:16-18, Acts 10:25-26, Rev 19:10, 22:8-9**

8.<sup>1</sup> **Idolatry** – 1. The worship of idols, images, or anything made by hands, or which is not God. Idolatry is of two kinds; the worship of images, statues, pictures, &c. made by hands; and the worship of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars, or of demons, angels, men and animals. 2. Excessive attachment or veneration for any thing, or that which borders on adoration.

**B. Decision of a Servant 28-33**

1. **Obeyed God**

2. **Without Gainsaying – To resist, To contradict, To oppose with words**

**C. Declaration of a principle 34-35**

1. *“God is no respecter of persons”- Deu 1:17, Deu 10:17, Deu 16:19, Pro 24:23*

a. God does not pervert judgement but offers salvation based on his Divine Sovereignty and is a grace gift toward man Jew and Gentile alike based on *“repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” Acts 20:21*

2. You and I should be no respecter of persons

a. **James 2:1-9**

3. **Why Cornelius?** *“he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted of him.”*

a. Cornelius was living up to the light he had been afforded; in other words, he was seeking God, and had an open heart. (Cornelius was seeking God, but he cannot take credit because God had given him light to seek him, what was that light, we are not told, natural revelation, perhaps the scriptures, perhaps the preaching of Philip, Jewish teaching, all of these are possibilities)

b. Ultimately our prayer is that the word of God would penetrate the heart of man and that man would respond in repentance and faith to the drawing of the Holy Spirit. **John 6:44, John 6:37, John 16:8-10, Romans 3:10-12, Romans 10:17**

**D. Detailing of the Gospel 36-43**

1. *“The word which God sent” V36*

a. This is a divine message – From God to Israel

b. This is a divine messenger – The God-Man

c. The *logos* – The word

d. **Reminiscent of Gen 22:8** *And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*

2. *“That word” V37*

a. Rhema – “utterance, communication”

3. **The personal testimony**

a. *“We are witnesses of all things” 38-41*

b. We were not eyewitnesses of those things, but we can certainly be eyewitnesses of Jesus in our lives, and point them to the truth of God’s word.

4. **The providential testimony (God’s Word)**

a. *“To him give all the prophets witness” 43*

5. **The Gospel given**

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<sup>1</sup> Websters 1828 Dictionary, “Idolatry”

- a. **Appointment of Jesus Christ V38**
  - 1. **The Holy Spirit**
  - 2. **Miracles**
- b. **Atonement of Jesus Christ V39**
  - 1. Cross of Calvary
  - 2. *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. **Hebrews 9:22***
- c. **Approval of Jesus Christ V40**
  - 1. *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: **Romans 1:4***
- d. **Appearances of Jesus Christ V40-41**
  - 1. *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. **1 Corinthians 15:6***
- e. **Authorization of Jesus Christ V42 (Command)**
  - 1. *“And he commanded us to preach unto the people” – herald the good news*
  - 2. *“to testify” – attest, charge, witness to*
  - 3. *“Judge of quick and dead” - **John 5:22, 27; 1 Peter 4:5***
- f. **Application of Jesus Christ V43**
  - 1. *“whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”- **Acts 10:43; Romans 10:9-13***

**E. Discovery of Life**

**1. Impartation of the Holy Spirit V44-46**

- a. **Sign** – *“they heard them speak with tongues”- Different languages not native to them*
- b. **They were astonished (amazed)** – *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. **Romans 1:16***

**2. Command to be baptized V48**

- a. *“in the name of the Lord” – declaring publicly salvation*

**3. Affinity to believers V48**

- a. *“Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” - Fellowship of believers*