

Six Great Truths Cornelius Can Teach Us

Acts 10:1-2

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian *band*,

2 A devout *man*, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

Acts 10:33

33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

- I. One of the most amazing things about the Bible is the treasure of truth can be packed in so few scriptures.
 - A. The account of Cornelius is one of the most amazing conversions recorded in the Bible.
 - B. His conversion is more astounding than that of Saul the Pharisee.
 - C. Cornelius was a Gentile.
 - D. Cornelius was a Roman.
 - E. Cornelius represented the oppressive government of Rome.
 - F. The tenth chapter of Acts is the only place we find the mention of Cornelius.
 - G. There are no Biblical recordings of this man before or after.
- II. The first great truth we find in the life of Cornelius is, he was a worshiper of the One True God.

Acts 10:2

2 A devout *man*, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

- A. Though Cornelius came from a society that worshiped many gods, he worshiped One God.
 - B. He refused the influence of his peers and found truth.
 - C. The bombardment of the ways of his culture and society had no power over his convictions.
- III. The second great truth is, Cornelius believed God observed the affairs of man and took an interest.
 - A. Acts 10.33 tells us Cornelius told Peter and those who came with him, “Now therefore are we all here present before God...”
 - B. He was convinced God took notice of him.
 - C. Not even the Jewish people can claim that unshakable belief.

- D. Jonah thought he could hide from God in the bottom of a ship.
- E. Aaron thought he could make an idol and the true God not know it.
- F. Achan thought God did not see him steal from Jericho.
- G. What we need to learn from Cornelius is, God is concerned about us and knows all about us...every day.

IV. Lesson three is, even Cornelius knew and understood that the message of salvation will come from a God called, God anointed and God sent individual.

- A. Referring back to verse 33, Cornelius told Peter everyone was gathered there to hear the words God gave him.
- B. Even though he saw an angel, he recognized Peter's importance in delivering the

Romans 10:14-15

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

message.

- C. Cornelius had an understanding of the ministry before Paul ever wrote his writings.
- D. It is one thing to be called to preach, but another thing to be sent.
 - 1. One of the best ways to tell if a preacher is sent as well as called is by the message he preaches.
- E. Cornelius, a man who against all odds, knew the one true God also knew he could not be saved without a preacher.

V. Cornelius also recognized the sovereignty of God.

- A. Once again, in verse 33, he notified Peter, he and his household gathered to hear the words God commanded him to speak.
- B. That word commanded denotes rulership and sovereignty in the lives of men.
- C. Cornelius understood this kind of rule.
 - 1. When Caesar would order him to one place on the globe or another, he would have to go.
 - 2. He was well acquainted with authority.

VI. In understanding this authority we see the fifth lesson...submission to that authority.

- A. Cornelius was not ready to just obey a portion of what this God called, God sent man told him.
- B. Again in verse 33 Cornelius makes reference to hearing all the words Peter spoke.

- C. We will not be saved with multiple choice obedience to the things of God.

2 Kings 5:12

12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean?
So he turned and went away in a rage.

- D. Looking at Naaman again, he was not disturbed about WHAT he had to do....just where.
E. Be very careful you don't try to choose your preference for salvation.
F. It must comply with the Word of God.

- VII. The final lesson we learn is action.

Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

- A. He did not delay.
B. He acted on what he learned.
C. He did not passively sit by and let these words of salvation drop on deaf ears.
D. In other words...just do it.