

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for December 8, 2013

The Message By Peter To The Gentiles
Acts 10:34-43

Acts 10:34-43 details the first time the good news of Christ is preached to a Gentile audience consisting of Cornelius, a centurion, and his friends and relatives (Acts 10:24).

1. The love of Christ (10:34-35)

Peter was willing to acknowledge the barrier to his relationship with the Gentiles in Caesarea (Acts 10:19-20).

The Greek word translated “not one to show partiality” (PROSOPOLEMPTES) only occurs here in the New Testament and literally means “acceptor of faces.” The message of Christ is for every nation, not just the Jews.

God does not show partiality (Romans 2:11; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; 1 Peter 1:17), but this does not mean that He treats everyone the same.

Acts 10:35 shows the biblical view of faith (a deep reverence for God) and works (evidence of true faith through righteousness).

2. The life of Christ (10:36-38)

Peter began his message by introducing the person of Christ, the Lord of all, and work of Christ, peace with God (cf. Romans 5:1).

Peter built his message to the Gentiles on their prior knowledge of Christ’s earthly ministry.

When the people have some knowledge of Jesus Christ, we can build upon that existing knowledge in order to help them see the significance of Christ.

3. The resurrection of Christ (10:39-41)

Those identified as responsible for Christ’s death are the Jews (Acts 10:39; compare Acts 2:23, 36; 3:13-15; 4:10; 5:30).

As with His prior messages in Acts, Peter’s role as an eyewitness to the resurrection of Christ is the primary support for the truth of the message. The post-resurrection appearances were not simply visions but were a reality that included eating and drinking. We who believe in Christ without having seen Him resurrected are considered blessed (John 20:29).

Only select people were eyewitnesses to the resurrection, however their account remains for us in the New Testament. In addition, all Christians can testify to a personal relationship with Christ.

4. The mission of Christ (10:42-43)

Like Peter, Christians have been called to communicate about Christ to the world (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47).

Peter identifies Jesus as the Judge, and the fact of the coming judgment is assumed. People of the world have an innate knowledge of their own guilt through their God-given conscience (Romans 2:14-16).

Peter's message is not one of condemnation of sin but rather the hope of forgiveness (John 3:17; 16:8).

God's message to the world is the death and resurrection of Christ on our behalf so that all who believe in Him will live eternally (John 3:16).

May we all by God's grace receive forgiveness through belief in Christ and help others who do not believe come to know this same forgiveness with us.