

Cornelius' Conversion (Acts 10:1-11:18)
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INTRODUCTION

- * We remember those who do things first:
 - Neil Armstrong -- first man on moon
 - George Washington -- first president
- * Cornelius was the first Gentile convert to Christianity.
- * We learn from Cornelius that . . .

I. Salvation is needed by EVERYONE and available to ALL

- A. Needed by ALL
 - Acts 10:1-8** -- Cornelius
 - Rom 3:23** -- All have sinned
- B. Available to ALL
 - Acts 10:9-16** -- Peter's vision
 - Rom 1:16** -- gospel is the power of salvation to everyone

Two broad groups:

Family, neighbors, friends, co-workers
Prostitutes, drug dealers, murderers, liars

II. Morality, miraculous events or prayer alone will NOT save

- A. Morality is not enough
 - 10:2** -- Cornelius a devout man
 - 10:30** -- He fasted
 - 10:31** -- He prayed and gave alms
 - 10:24** -- His influence on others
- B. Miraculous not involved
 - 10:3** -- Cornelius saw an angel
- C. Prayer alone is not enough
 - 10:4-5** -- God recognized his prayers; He told to send for Peter

III. Hearing the truth, obedience to God, and immersion in water WILL save

- A. Hearing
 - 11:13-14** -- speak words by which saved
 - Heb 11:6** -- must have faith
 - Rom 10:17** -- faith comes by word of God

B. Obedience -- baptism
10:47-48 -- baptized
Acts 22:16 -- Paul's conversion
Matt 28:19-20 -- great commission

C. Immersion
Acts 8:38-39 -- eunuch
Romans 6:3-4 -- buried
Mark 16:15-16 -- believe and baptized

IV. The Holy Spirit was not given to save but to indicate God's approval

A. Coming of H.S.
10:44-46
11:15

B. Why did H.S. come?
a. God showing salvation open to all; 2 instances in NT (Acts 2 & 10)
b. Not to save Cornelius -- he was baptized in water
c. Purpose -- Gentiles fit for Kingdom
Acts 11:2-4
Acts 11:18