

## **GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS**

Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The vision of Cornelius Acts 10:1-6
  - 1. Devout man - feared God
  - 2. Prayers and alms - a memorial before God
  - 3. Needed to be told what to do Acts 11:14
  - 4. Had a desire to know - sent for Peter
- B. Vision of Peter Acts 10:9-21
  - 1. Never eaten anything common or unclean
  - 2. What God has cleansed call not common or unclean
  - 3. Peter goes to the Gentiles
- C. Peter's conclusion
  - 1. God is no respecter of persons
  - 2. Anyone who obeys God is accepted with him
  - 3. Cornelius is baptized and receives the Holy Ghost same as the Jews Acts 10:45-48
- D. Let's look at some Bible examples which demonstrate Peter's conclusion

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **I. THE RICH VERSUS THE POOR Lk 16:19-31**

- A. This rich man had plenty
  - 1. clothed in purple and fine linen (clothing of royalty)
  - 2. Fared sumptuously everyday
- B. Scriptures indicate he did not follow Moses and the prophets Lk 16:28-31
  - 1. He needed to repent vs 30
  - 2. He went to torment in spite of his riches
- C. Lazarus the poor beggar had nothing
  - 1. Full of sores - desired crumbs - dogs licked sores
  - 2. Lazarus went to a place of comfort
- D. Same verses which indicate the rich man did not do right also indicate that Lazarus did do what was right.
  - 1. One had to hear Moses and the prophets v 29
  - 2. One had to be "persuaded" v 31
- E. Whether rich or poor they had to hear the law and respond

#### **II. THE EDUCATED AND UNEDUCATED**

- A. The apostles were for the most part unschooled men Acts 4:13
  - 1. They were the common working folks of the day
  - 2. Yet when they followed Jesus they were made fishers of men Matt 4:19
  - 3. Peter an uneducated fisherman was given the "keys of the kingdom" Matt 16:19
- B. Saul of Tarsus was a very well educated man Acts 22:3

- 1. Had a very high position among the Pharisees
  - 2. He always thought he was doing right - he intended to do right Acts 23:1; 26:9
  - 3. Yet with all his education and good intentions he was not pleasing God
  - 4. Saul had to humble himself and become obedient to the truth Acts 9:8,9,18
- C. So whether one is educated or uneducated they must humbly serve the Lord on the Lord's terms 1Cor 2:1-4

#### **III. GOD WILL FORGIVE THE VILEST OF SINNERS**

- A. Paul referred to himself as "chief of sinners" 1Tim 1:15
  - 1. Reflect on Saul's intentions in going to Damascus Acts 9:1,2, 13-16
  - 2. He was very zealous in carrying out his intentions of persecuting Christians (fighting against God) Acts 22:4
- B. Yet this man who saw himself as such a great sinner, when he was willing to humble himself in obedience to the truth was the one chosen by God to carry the Gospel to the Gentile nations Acts 9:15; 13:2

#### **IV. GREAT LEADERS CAN FALL**

- A. Moses was God's chosen leader Num 20:8-12
  - 1. He led Israel out of Egyptian bondage
  - 2. Was allowed to see the back parts of God Ex 33:23
  - 3. Talked to God personally many times
- B. Yet this great leader was not allowed to enter the promised land because of his disobedience Num 20:12

#### **V. GOD ALLOWS THE RIGHTEOUS TO BE TRIED**

- A. Job was perfect and upright - feared God Job 1:6-12
  - 1. None like him in all the earth
  - 2. Devil accused God of building an hedge about Job
- B. God allowed the devil to tempt or to try job's faith
  - 1. All that will live godly shall suffer persecution 2Tim 3:12
  - 2. Yet God does not allow trials more than we can bear - He provides a way of escape 1Cor 10:13

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. No matter WHO we are or WHAT we do, God requires us to obey him and to remain faithful unto death Rev 2:10
- B. Whether rich or poor; educated or uneducated; great leader; sinner or righteous - God requires obedience - continued obedience all of our lives
- C. We will suffer temptations and trials and we must overcome them with the help of God Phil 4:13
- D. Must all become one in Christ - no distinction Gal 3:24-29