

## Cases of Conversion

Cornelius – A Good Man Who Was Lost

## Introduction

- Widely believed - if we live a good moral life and sincerely follow what we feel is right in religion, we will be saved
- Good moral folks found holding various religious beliefs or none at all
- Cornelius was such a man – morally good and actively serving God according to his understanding

2

## Introduction

- But, Cornelius was lost
- Thankfully, we will see that Cornelius does obey the gospel that Peter preached
- Cornelius different from many religious folks today who believe they are saved by their good moral lives
- Cornelius had a deep desire to know and obey all the Lord commanded him do to be saved

3

## Introduction

- He also desired his household and friends to do the same
- Further, what makes Cornelius more remarkable is that he was a Gentile from a culture filled with idolatry and immorality
- Cornelius unique because he and his household were first Gentile converts who were uncircumcised and did not follow the Law of Moses

4

## Introduction

- Confusion among apostles and other Jewish Christians about whether Gentiles should be required to be circumcised and follow old law to be saved
- From Acts 10-11, we can infer that Jewish Christians still would not freely associate with Gentiles even on a social level
- Peter needed direct Divine direction to go to Cornelius' house

5

## Introduction

- In Cornelius' conversion, we have God's clear statement that all, Jew and Gentile, would be saved in the same way
- God does not have different plans of salvation for different groups of people

6

## Character of Cornelius

Act 10:1 Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,

Act 10:2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually.

7

## Why Did Cornelius Need To Be Saved?

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

8

## Why Did Cornelius Need To Be Saved?

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

9

## Cornelius Commanded To Send For Peter

Act 11:13 "And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;

Act 11:14 and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

10

## Purpose of Peter's Coming – Speak Saving Gospel

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

11

## Peter Commanded To Go To Cornelius' House

Act 11:5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me,

Act 11:6 and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air.

12

## Peter Commanded To Go To Cornelius' House

Act 11:7 "I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

Act 11:8 "But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

Act 11:9 "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.'

13

## Peter Commanded To Go To Cornelius' House

Act 11:10 "This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.

Act 11:11 "And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent to me from Caesarea.

**Act 11:12** "The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house.

14

## Cornelius Ready To Hear And Peter Ready To Preach

Act 10:24 On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Act 10:33 "So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

15

## Cornelius Ready To Hear And Peter Ready To Preach

Act 10:34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,

Act 10:35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

16

## The Gospel Message Peter Spoke

Act 10:36 "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)--

Act 10:37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.

17

## The Gospel Message Peter Spoke

Act 10:38 "*You know of* Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Act 10:39 "We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

18

## The Gospel Message Peter Spoke

Act 10:40 "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,

Act 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Act 10:42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. 19

## The Gospel Message Peter Spoke

Act 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

20

## The Lord's Actions In Proving Same Salvation For All

Act 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

Act 10:45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

21

## The Lord's Actions In Proving Same Salvation For All

Act 10:46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,

Act 10:47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?"

22

## The Lord's Actions In Proving Same Salvation For All

Act 11:15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as *He did* upon us at the beginning.

Act 11:16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

23

## The Lord's Actions In Proving Same Salvation For All

Act 11:17 "Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as *He gave* to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

Act 11:18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life."

24

## The Lord's Actions In Proving Same Salvation For All

- Acts 2 – the Holy Spirit given to the apostles to prove to Jews Jesus is Lord and must be obeyed to be saved
- Acts 10 – the Holy Spirit given to Cornelius and household to prove to Jews all people must obey the same gospel to receive forgiveness of sins
- No obedience to circumcision and Law of Moses necessary then or now to be saved

25

## God Saves All In The Same Way

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

26

## God Saves All In The Same Way

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

27

## Cornelius' Response To The Gospel

Act 10:48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

28

## Cornelius Was Not Saved Because

He was Italian

He lived a good moral life

He was devout and prayed to God

Received the gift of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous way

29

## Cornelius Was Saved

By believing in Jesus to the point of repenting of his sins and being baptized (fully immersed) in water in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of his sins

This is the only way anyone can be saved today

Will you be saved as Cornelius was saved?

30

# Cornelius – A Good Man Who Was Lost

Character of Cornelius

The Lord's actions in bringing Peter to  
Cornelius

The gospel message Peter spoke

The Lord's actions in proving same salvation  
for all

Cornelius' response to the gospel