

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

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Review

- **Acts 1:8**

- Jesus intended for the Gospel to spread everywhere.

- **Through chapter 7, only Jerusalem had heard the good news.**

- **Acts 8:1-5**

- Even as the persecution causes the Gospel to spread, Gentiles had still not heard it.

- **This all changes in chapter 10.**

The Narrative

- **All of chapter 10 and the first half of chapter 11 deal with the same event.**
- **Acts 11:4-17**
 - **Cornelius, a good, sincere Gentile reaches out to Peter for direction from God.**
 - **Peter, a Jewish apostle, is sent by God to Cornelius to teach him about Jesus and eternal life.**
 - **While Peter is speaking to a mostly Gentile crowd, the Holy Spirit falls on the listeners, leaving the Jews amazed and the Gentiles speaking in tongues.**

Salvation of Cornelius' Household

- **Cornelius was a good man (morality) who needed God's grace.**
 - **10:1-3, 22 cf. 10:48**
- **How were they saved?**
 - **Not through their good deeds.**
 - **Not by the Holy Spirit coming upon them. 10:44-47**
 - **They were saved the same way all people are saved: by the Gospel. 11:13, 14; Romans 1:16**

A Flawed, but Impressive Man

- **Acts 10:24-33**
- **Cornelius was present. 10:24**
- **Cornelius' family was present. 10:24**
- **Cornelius had invited others. 10:24, 27**
- **Attitude in listening to God's word. 10:33**
 - **Recognition that they were before God.**
 - **Recognition of the purpose of the meeting.**

11:18

- **Easy to get the idea that all Jews were against all Gentiles coming into the fold of God, and many were:**
 - **Acts 11:1-3**
 - **Acts 15:1, 5**
 - **Galatians 2**
- **11:18 shows that not all Jews were against Gentiles.**
 - **Though it would take time, many Jews would come to see them as brothers in the kingdom.**
 - **10:28, 34, 35**

Emphasizing the Lord

- **Acts 11:20-24**

- *Preach* the Lord Jesus. 11:20
- *Believe* and *turn* to the Lord. 11:21
- *Added* to the Lord. 11:24
- *Continue* with the Lord. 11:23

- **Lessons?**

- There is not a more fitting name than “Christian.” 11:26
- Our loyalty must be first and foremost to the Lord.
- People who are unfaithful need to get back to the Lord, not just to church.