

## The Gospel of Christ – Acts 10:34-48

By Pastor Jeff Alexander

### Introduction

1. The Lord supernaturally arranged for Peter to preach the gospel to Cornelius because of the radical shift in the composition of the church from primarily Jewish to primarily Gentile.
2. A strict Jew, Peter would not have visited a Gentile's home. God had to instruct him that it was His will for him to go there.
3. Peter was brought to understand that God is not a respecter of persons because He is the creator of all. It was always God's plan to save Gentiles.
4. Israel's seeming exclusive place was due to God's purpose to save sinners by His Son's incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension.
5. The message the Peter preached to Cornelius's household contains more information about Jesus Christ than any other message recorded in Acts.

### I. The Word of the Gospel

#### A. The message sent (v. 36)

1. The origin of the message—heaven
  - a. The word (*logos*, John 1:1-3, and *rhema*, v. 37; Romans 10:17) of God
  - b. The revelation of God to Moses (Exodus 33:18, 19; 34:6-8) and the message of Peter
2. The first destination of the message—Israel (Acts 13:46; Matthew 10:5, 6; 15:22-28; Hebrews 8:8-13; Romans 1:16)
3. The publication of the message—preaching “good news” (*euaggelizo*)
4. The goal of the message—peace (*shalom*, a state of reconciliation and restoration of harmony with God)
5. The subject of the message—Jesus Christ, “He is Lord of all”

#### B. The content of the message (vv. 37, 38)

1. Its public nature—“you (emphatic) know” (not meant to say that they had all the details—see Luke 24:18)
2. Its historical context—Jesus entered into human history (the “good” Jesus vs. the historical Jesus)
3. Its divine purpose and miraculous element—“they killed Him *but* God raised Him up” (v. 39b)

### II. The Witness to the Gospel

#### A. The message substantiated (vv. 39-41)

1. Multiple witnesses of His sinless life of good works and miracles
2. Multiple witnesses of His resurrection

#### B. The message commanded by virtue of Christ's resurrection (v. 42)

1. Christ's authority to save through the commissioned gospel ministry (preaching and testifying)
  2. Christ's authority to judge the living and the dead (everyone will face Christ one day to be judged by Him; Acts 17:30, 31)
- C. The message supported (v. 43)
1. The prophets prepared for His coming (Acts 26:22; Luke 24:25-27)
  2. The prophets proclaimed His forgiveness (Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 7:18; Zechariah 13:1; Micah 4:2)

### **III. The Wind of the Gospel**

- A. The interrupted message (v. 44)
- B. The unmistakable evidence (vv. 45, 46)
- C. The undeniable conclusion (vv. 47, 48)

### **Lessons**

1. If the message of the believer is the gospel of Christ, are you comfortable enough with your knowledge of the gospel to share it with the lost?
2. When people claim to believe on Christ, how do you know if their claim is genuine?
3. How would you defend the historical Jesus against those who claim that He was just a good man but not God come in the flesh?