

Acts # 52 “The Gentile Pentecost” Part 2 Acts 10:23-48

**The most important phrase in the NT regarding the Church is ‘in Christ’ referring to 1 of 40 things that happen at the moment of salvation when God the Holy Spirit enters every new believer into union with Jesus Christ.**

The word body from ‘*body of Christ*’ emphasizes that while we’re all in union with Jesus Christ, we have different spiritual gifts.

*Believers have different gifts and therefore different functions in union with Jesus Christ.*

Experientially we function with our different gifts but positionally, we are all in union with Christ.

**This is one of the greatest days that Simon ever had as under one roof, century old barriers and prejudices are broken down.**

Christian hospitality and fellowship are two of the great blessings of life.

*We see here the awareness of believers from Joppa indicating that those who accompanied Peter had enough biblical truth in their souls to realize they were going to witness one of the greatest events of the Church Age, the Gentile Pentecost.*

The plan of God calls for divine ability not human ability and Peter is referring to a taboo which is directly related to the energy of the flesh.

**Cornelius prays to God constantly, so what’s going on with this man with a Godless, heathen background?**

God is perfect righteousness and therefore He cannot be unfair to any member of the human race.

*But what about the people who have never heard?*

They have all had a chance to be saved; there has never been a person born into this world in the history of the human race, who has not had a chance to be saved.

God is absolute righteousness and He is fair and just, so He’s never given anyone a raw deal and we understand this by application of the essence of God.

**God-consciousness is recognition of the existence of a Supreme Being usually through general revelation.**

**The principle of God-consciousness simply says that at the age of accountability, if any member of the human race; regardless of geographical location, language barrier or isolation, desires relationship with God, God will provide information for that individual to decide on Jesus Christ.**

Sooner or later all normal members of the human race reach the point of God-consciousness.

*The only exception is the person who cannot think for himself or a person who dies before*

*reaching accountability.*

Negative reaction at God-consciousness creates a vacuum in the mind into which is drawn religion and with religion, this person will constantly reject the truth all of his life.

**Legalistic tradition adds to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross by insisting that man feel sorry for his sins, renounce his sins, observe some ritual such as baptism, adhere to the golden rule or fit into a certain man-made pattern of morality.**

We have a grace principle of salvation but religion always adds man's accomplishments to the mix.

*Grace is God the Son doing the work or the giving and man doing the receiving and therefore, God gets the credit under grace.*

Under legalism or religion, man does the work and God is supposed to receive what man does with appreciation and man gets the credit.

**When we confess a sin as believers, we name a sin that's already been judged and since it has already been paid for, we simply make reference to it and God is faithful and just to restore us to experiential fellowship.**

Most people think spirituality is being moral, living a good clean life and showing up at church periodically, etc.

*Spirituality is the filling of the Spirit and we get it only by God's grace recovery technique so, here again, legalism destroys the principle.*

As believers in Christ, we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who graciously produces divine good through us.