

SESSION 10 REVIEW: DECEMBER 2, 2012
CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH

Scripture for Inspiration: Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Compare: Deut: 7:6 (14.2)

ACTS CHAPTER 9

The Damascus Road: Saul Converted

(Read: Acts 22:3-21; 1Cor 1:25-28; Read Galatians 1:11-24)

ACTS CHAPTER 10

The Conversion of Cornelius the Roman Centurion

The most important event in human history apart from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is the conversion to Christianity of Saul of Tarsus. If Saul had remained a Jewish rabbi, we would be missing thirteen of twenty-seven books of the New Testament and Christianity's early major expansion to the Gentiles. God's purposes are not to be thwarted. If Paul were not to be the vessel to the gentiles another would have been prepared. It is always God who wills and who does, not the will and purposes of any man!

1. Saul (Sha-ul) is chosen by Jesus as the man to bring the gospel to the gentiles:

- a. How has Stephen's prayer made this possible?
- b. Jesus Christ himself, interrupts Saul's plan to persecute the church on the Damascus road.
- c. Saul's fellow travelers are **witnesses**; they acknowledge a strange happening but don't know any of the particulars of Jesus' message to Saul.
- d. The travelers do witness the powerful impact of the event upon Saul, blindness etc.

- e. What was the only instruction given to Saul? (Go to Damascus)
- f. During the 3 day journey What may have been going through Saul's mind?
- g. The Lord prepared Ananias in a vision assigning him to minister to Saul....
- h. Who is it that instructs Ananias regarding Saul; Ananias is instructed to perform which 2 tasks,?

- i. What does the Lord tell Ananias that he does not share with Jesus? Saul is a Chosen vessel & that he should suffer for the Gospel sake.
- j. Paul immediately goes into the synagogues of Damascus and testifies of Jesus in synagogues that he is the true & risen Messiah
- k. Predictably the Jews now accuse Saul of blasphemy and set about to kill him.
- l. Friends help Paul to escape from Damascus in a basket.

- m. Paul returns to Jerusalem has trouble connecting with the original disciples, hmm. Why?
- n. Barnabus has already been mentioned in Chapter 3 (brave or Spirit-led) faithful helps Paul connect with the apostles. (Barnabus' name means 'son of encouragement')
- o. Saul preaches Jesus to the Jews & Hellenists Many believe. Hellenists are Greek speaking Jewish faithful living in various regions of the Mediterranean:
- p. The church has a season of peace ministering in "the fear of the Lord."

- q. Peter ministers in regions farther northward from Jerusalem.
- r. Aeneas is healed in the town of Lydda, just inland from Joppa. Many believe through this.
- s. Peter is called to Joppa from Lydda, Dorcas is raised from the dead.
- t. With the testimony of Dorcas, many believe in the region of Joppa.

CHAPTER 10 (REVIEW)

2. Peter is called to minister salvation to the household of Cornelius, a Roman centurion.

- a. Cornelius residing in Caesaria, is visited by an angel of the Lord' prayers and alms of been noted. (Caesaria, a coastal city is 33 miles north of Joppa, 60 miles from Jerusalem.)
- b. The angel instructs Cornelius to send (3) men to Joppa to Peter's exact place of residence.
- c. While the messengers travel, Peter has a vision of "unclean" food now called "clean."
- d. Peter in dialogue with the Lord, is persuaded to change his thinking about clean & unclean Peter makes the association through the Holy Spirit that even gentiles can be part of God's plan of redemption and share in the plan of salvation to people outside of Judaism.

- e. Peter no more than finishes the vision and the 3 men from Caesaria (33mi) are at his door.
- f. Peter returns to with the Cornelius's 3 men to Caesaria to visit Cornelius.
- g. Cornelius has invited many to the event.
- h. Peter expounds upon the essential gospel in vss. 34 – 43. The Holy Spirit falls.

- I. The Holy Spirit with evidence of tongues is experience while Peter is preaching gospel.
- j. The conversion of everyone is immediate and all are baptized immediately by Peter

ACTS CHAPTER 11 READ CHAPTER 11

3.

- a. Peter defends his ministry to Gentiles to the brethren in Jerusalem
- b. Peter recounts the story of how Cornelius and his household received the Holy Spirit.
- c. Peter adds the story of how Jesus explained that they should be also be baptized with the Holy Spirit as the disciples were at the beginning. Peter in no way, wanted to withstand the Spirit of God. (Stephen's last words)
- d. The Jewish believers are persuaded that the Gentiles have indeed received redemption.

Barnabus ministers to the dispersed in Antioch Syria.(300 miles from Jerusalem)

What does this phrase mean? Acts 11:20-21 "- - preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord." "In Acts grace is that power which flows from God or the exalted Christ and accompanies the activity of the apostles giving success to their mission"

- a. After the death of Stephen, Jewish believers scatter to regions north of Jerusalem. Believers moved to regions of Phoenicia (Lebanon), The island of Cyprus, (S of Turkey in Mediterranean) and Antioch (Syria.) There is also an Antioch Pisidia in Turkey where Paul is later to travel in later journeys. This Antioch of Pisidia is located near Cilicia, Phrygia, and Pamphilia. This region had been the cultural cross roads region of present Turkey then Asia Minor. The city Antioch in Syria derives it's name from Antiochus Nicanor the father of one of Alexander's Seleucid generals) approx. 330 B.C.)
- b. Antioch had a reputation of coining clever names. Christians were first named so in Antioch, Given the name Christians their name. A similar expression 'Chrestianoj' meant servants or slaves and Christians rather than be offended embraced the association.
- c. The dispersed Christians evangelized the Jewish settlements in these regions.
- d. Antioch was a large city of 500,000 with a Jewish population of 70,000. It prospered in trade and was considered the third most important city in the Roman empire.
- e. After a time (months? or years?) Barnabus seeks to locate Paul who is now in tarsus and will join him in ministry in Antioch. They spend about a year together in fruitful ministry.
- f. The word of a predictive prophet, Agabus, is given concerning a coming famine. During new testament times the activities of a prophet mostly consisted in a message from the Holy Spirit for exhortation, edification or comfort. Foretelling and prediction did occur in this case with the prophet Agabus. Many call themselves prophets in ministries today, but unfortunately most have a very poor record of accuracy and too often are into self promotion.
- g. The prophesied famine did occur impacting the area of Judea. It was during the reign of Claudius Caesar. At this time The ekklesia, fellowships in Antioch send relief through Paul and Barnabus.