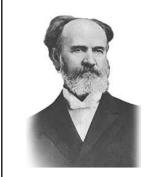


The Continuing Work of Jesus



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*Acts 11:1-18
The Gospel to the Gentiles (pt. 2)

Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, ³ saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴ But Peter began *speaking* and *proceeded* to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying, 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, 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. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

⁸ But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.

¹¹ And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them without making distinctions. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house. 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; ¹⁴ and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

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

(Acts 11:1-18)

Gentile Inclusion

- 1. A New People of God
 - Gentiles are fully and equally included in the messianic community through faith in Christ without submission to the Mosaic Law
 - the outpouring of the Spirit promised to Israel for its cleansing is equally poured out on the Gentiles

Gentile Inclusion

> Implication:

Anyone who stands in the way of the full incorporation of others into the church, when they genuinely trust in Jesus, stands in opposition to God

Gentile Inclusion

- 2. A Necessary Faith in Jesus
 - Q: is it necessary to hear and believe in the gospel (message of Jesus) in order to be saved?

Gentile Inclusion

- 2. A Necessary Faith in Jesus
 - Cornelius needed to hear the gospel and believe on Jesus to be "saved" (11:14,18)
 - Cornelius was a Gentile 'God-fearer' not an example of a 'saved pagan'

Gentile Inclusion

- > Implications:
 - 1. Since the coming of Jesus into the world, He alone is the explicit object of all saving faith
 - There is an urgency to the missionary task those who have never heard are lost apart from faith in Jesus

 $^{12}\,\text{For}$ there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; $^{13}\,\text{for}$ "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

(Romans 10:12-15)