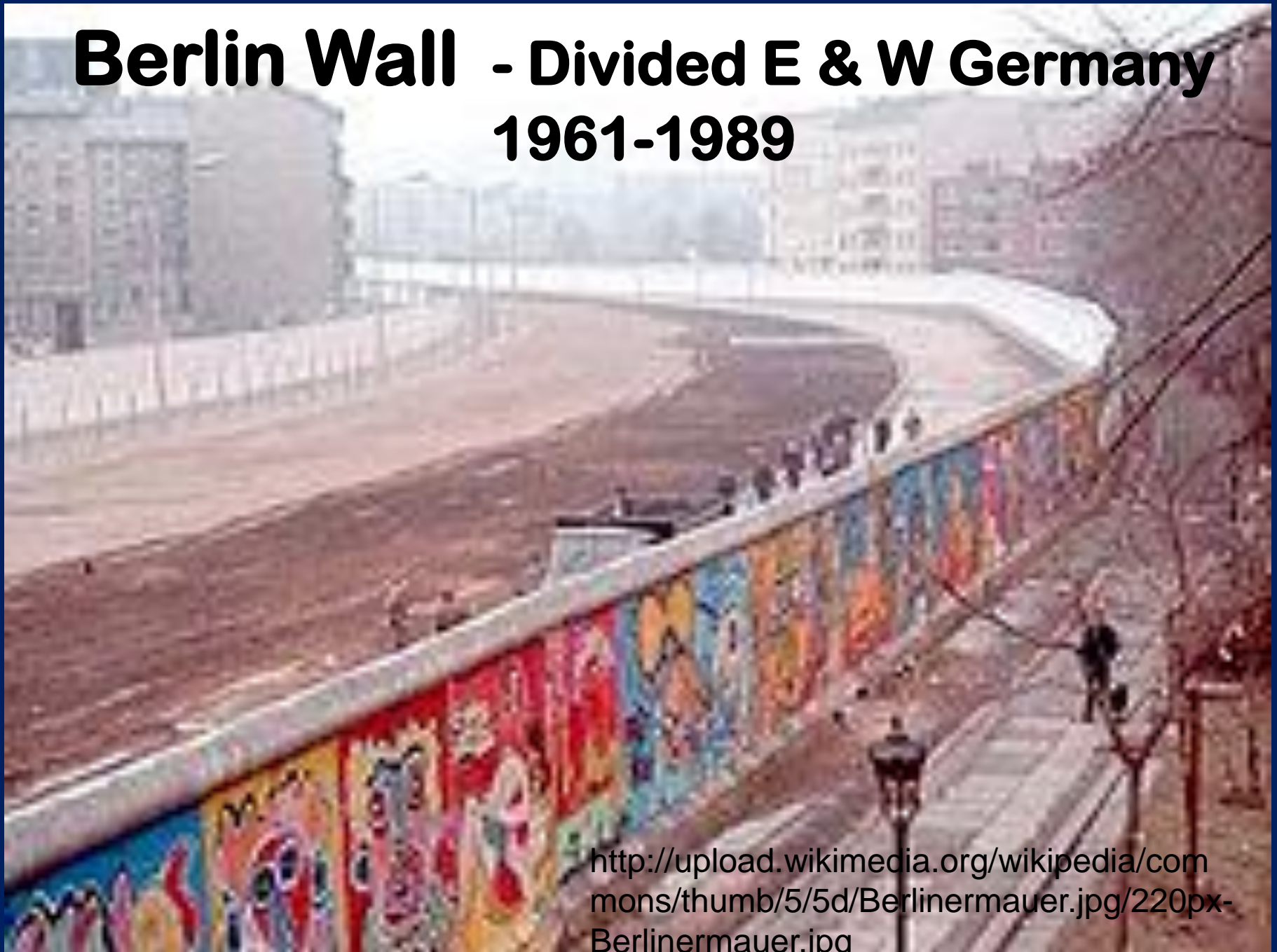


Berlin Wall - Divided E & W Germany 1961-1989



<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5d/Berlinermauer.jpg/220px-Berlinermauer.jpg>

Separation More Profound than the Berlin Wall - Eph. 2:11-13

Strangers to the covenant

Separate from Christ

“Uncircumcision”

Without God

Excluded

Strangers

No Hope

Aliens

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5d/Berlinermauer.jpg/220px-Berlinermauer.jpg>

**As Jesus Expands His Church,
He Invites Seekers and Servants to
Listen, Learn, Adjust, and Obey**

Acts 10:1-48

October 2, 2011

Pastor Kelly J. Mahoney

I. God's loving pursuit met with faith, obedience, and _____.

Cornelius

Acts 10:1-4

Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" 4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

I. God's loving pursuit met with faith, obedience, and _____.

Acts 10:1-4

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Cornelius

- Caesarea
- Roman Centurion
- Feared God
- Generous
- Prayerful

3pm-ish

Prayers have been heard.

I. God's loving pursuit met with faith, obedience, and _____.

Cornelius

Acts 10:5-8

Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; 6 he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea.” 7 When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants, 8 and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

I. God's loving pursuit met with faith, obedience, and _____.

Acts 10:5-8

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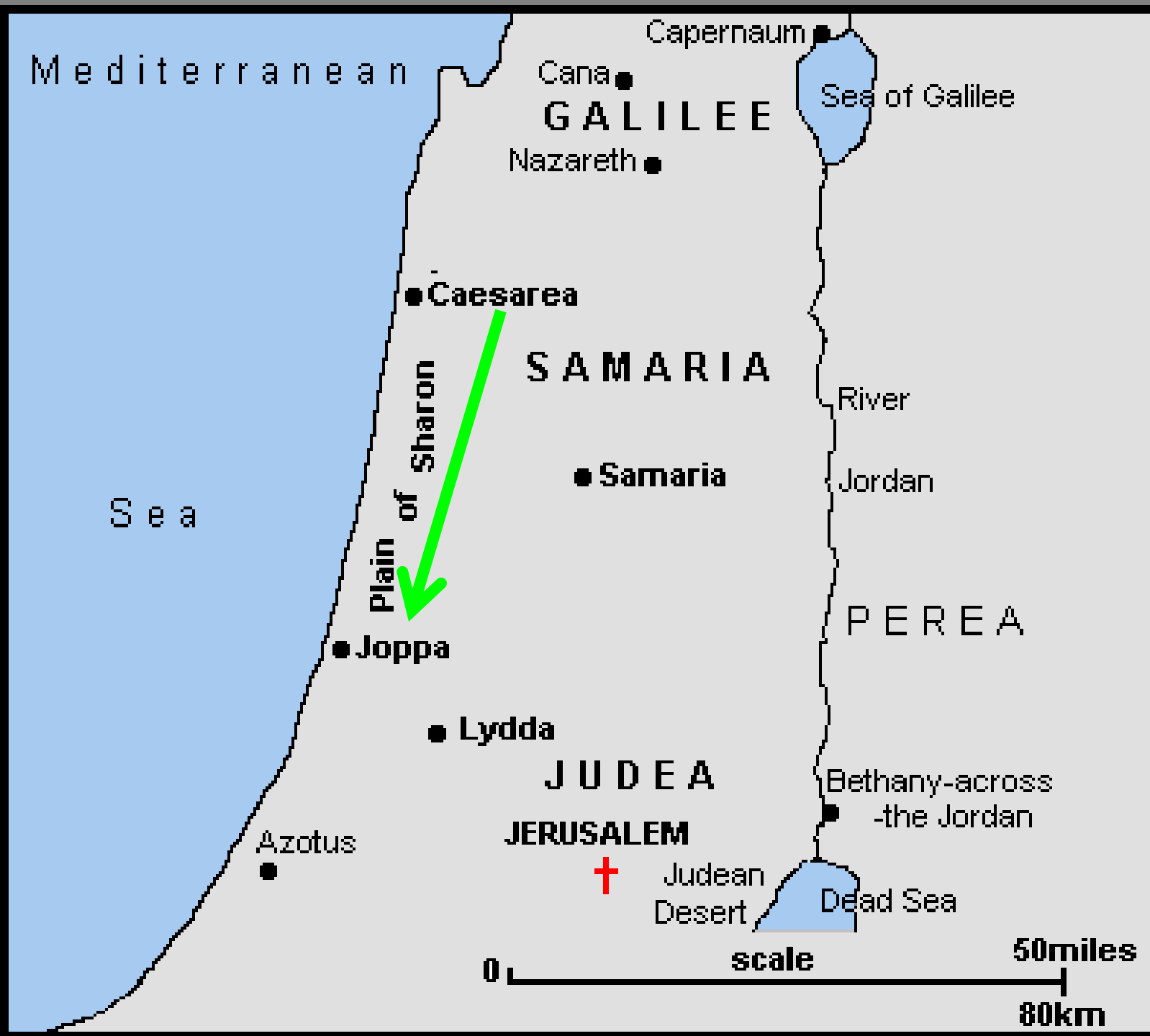
Day 1

Obey = send for Peter . . .

- Joppa
- 30 miles S.
- Simon the tanner's – house by sea

Sending 3

- 1 devout soldier
- 2 personal attendants.



**II. God's loving _____ into His work was
a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.**

**Day 2
Peter**

Acts 10:9-12

9 On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; 11 and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, 12 and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

II. God's loving _____ into His work was
a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Day 2
Peter

Acts 10:9-12

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- In Joppa
- noon-ish
- praying
- hungry
- trance / vision

**Lev. 11 &
Deut. 14**

II. God's loving _____ into His work was a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Deut. 14:1-3

"You are the sons of the LORD your God . . .

2 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

3 "You shall not eat any detestable thing.

Lev. 11:44-45

44 'For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.

. . . 45 'For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

•God's Holiness

•Their unique relationship to God

•In response to God's rescue from Egypt

II. God's loving invitation into His work was a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Day 2
Peter

Acts 10:13-16

13 A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." 15 Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." 16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

Listen UP!

**Lev. 11 &
Deut. 14**

II. God's loving invitation into His work was a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Day 2
Peter

Acts 10:17-20

17 Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate; 18 and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. 19 While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. 20 But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."

Listen UP!
Adjust.

PERFECT
Timing!

II. God's loving invitation into His work was a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Day 2
Peter

Acts 10:21-23

21 Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" 22 They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you."

Listen UP!
Obey!
Adjust.

And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

Day 3 = GO

- Peter
- brethren x 6
- + 3 Gentiles

I. God's loving pursuit met with faith, obedience, and expectation.

II. God's loving invitation into His work was a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Acts 10:24-27

On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man." 27 As he talked with him, he entered and found many people assembled.

Day 4

- Caesarea
- Cornelius
- WAITING
- Relatives
- Close friends

Peter & 6 brothers

Cornelius + relatives + friends

I. God's loving pursuit met with faith, obedience, and expectation.

Day 4

II. God's loving invitation into His work was a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Adjust -
associate

Acts 10:28-29

28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. 29 That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me."

Learn –
don't call
unholy

Adjust &
Obey -
come . . .

I. God's loving pursuit met with faith, obedience, and expectation.

Day 4

Acts 10:30-33

30 Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, 31 and he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. 32 Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon the tanner by the sea.' 33 So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

- Cornelius
- Relatives
- Friends

Faith & Obey =

- send
- present to hear

**God Re-Connected me with Ed in Atlanta
3 months later**



II. God's loving invitation into His work was a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Day 4

Acts 10:34-35

Learn the principle =

34 Opening his mouth, Peter said:

"I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

II. God's loving invitation into His work was a call to listen, learn, adjust, and obey.

Day 4

Genesis 12:3

Learn the principle =

³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Revelation 5:9

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

III. God's message of salvation is available to all, but for those who believe God's:

A. Witness of Jesus.

Acts 10:36-38, 42

36 The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)-- 37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. 38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

42 And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

III. God's message of salvation is available to all, but for those who believe God's:

B. Witness of His Followers.

Acts 10:39-42

39 We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. 40 God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

III. God's message of salvation is available to all, but for those who believe God's:

C. Witness of the Word.

Acts 10:34, 43

34 Opening his mouth, Peter said:

"I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

43 Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

III. God's message of salvation is available to all, but effective for those who believe God's witness:

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 10:34, 43

34 Opening his mouth, Peter said:

"I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

43 Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

IV. God's peace, power and presence are experienced by **obedience** to Him.

Acts 10:44-46, 36

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. 45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.

36 The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)--

IV. V. God's family must accept and accommodate those whom Jesus adopts as His own.

Acts 10:46-48

. . . Then Peter answered, 47 “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?” 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

IV. V. God's family must accept and accommodate those whom Jesus adopts as His own.

Acts 10:46-47

. . . Then Peter answered, 47 "Surely no one can refuse . . .

Acts 11:15-18

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."**

Jesus “broke down the dividing wall” - Eph. 2:13-22



Jesus “broke down the dividing wall” - Eph. 2:13-22

~~Strangers to the covenant~~ – **of God’s Household**

~~Separate from Christ~~ – **In Christ**

~~“Uncircumcision”~~ – **circumcised of heart by HS**

~~Without God~~ – **access in one Spirit to the Father**

~~Excluded~~ - **fellow Citizens with the Saints**

~~Strangers~~ – **family of God**

~~No Hope~~ -- **brought near to God by the blood**

~~Aliens~~ – **Brothers, sisters, family, friends**

Applying God's Word to Life

- 1) Have you responded by faith to the witness of Jesus, His followers, and His Word (Acts. 10:36-43)?
- 2) Have you come to the point where you have believed and come to know the forgiveness available in Jesus' name (Acts 10:43)?
- 3) How effectively are you putting scriptural principles into practice regarding our equal, level footing at the cross?
- 4) Are you loving, accepting, and making accommodations for all whom Jesus has adopted as His own?
- 5) Does God find you eager to listen, learn, adjust, and obey when He calls? What's holding you back?