

SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017

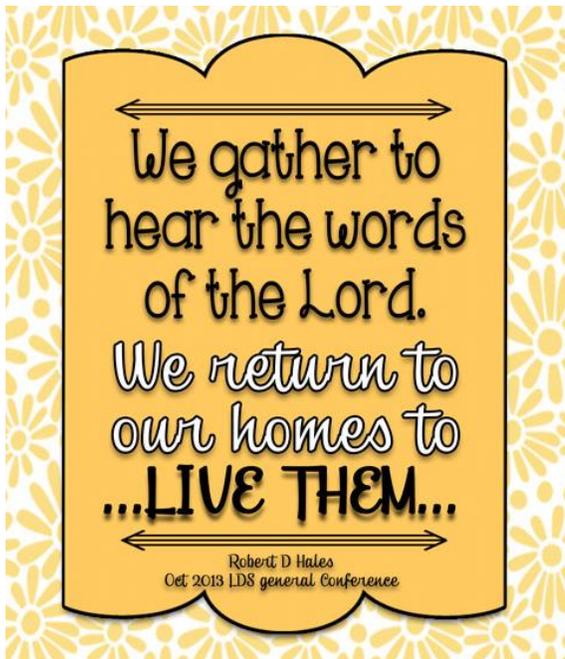
THEME – CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

UNIT III – RESPONDING TO THE MASTER’S CALL AS A CHRISTIAN IN GOD’S NEW TESTAMENT COMMUNITY

“A HOUSE GATHERING FOR A HEAVENLY MESSAGE”

Sunday School Lesson No. XII – August 27, 2017

Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III ~ Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: Acts 10:1-48

Required Reading: Acts 10:1-48

Memory Texts: Acts 10:24, “*And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.*”

Acts 10:27, “*And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.*”

Acts 10:34-35, “*Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.*”

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Libronix Electronic Library; Precepts for Living (UMI), Word Search 9 and 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible; Thirty Amazing People in the Bible by Dr. David Jeremiah, The Book of Acts by E. Gillentine; George Brooks Preaching Commentary; The Book of Acts in 24 Lessons by E. L. Bynum

INTRODUCTION

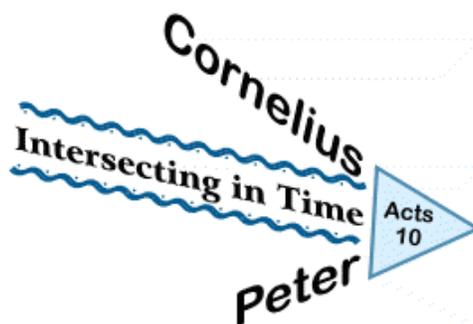
In our country, we have many gatherings at our homes with family, friends and associates. Gatherings like tailgating or birthday parties, weddings, showers, repasts, etc. But what is the motive for the gatherings? Most times it’s just to eat, drink, and celebrate common affairs! Beloved, I’m not a “stick in the mud,” but there are some things that are more important than to burn a burger, boil seafood or fry chicken!

In this week’s lesson we will visit the home of Cornelius the Centurion for “A House Gathering for a Heavenly Message.”

Our Anticipated Power Points are:

- Preparation for God’s Expressions. Acts 10:1-23
- Pleasantries and Courtesies Extended. Acts 10:24-33
- Preaching of Peter Extraordinaire. Acts 10:34-43

“A House Gathering for a Heavenly Message”



LESSON OUTLINE

I. Preparation for God's Expressions. Acts 10:1-23

Acts 1:8 describes Jesus' intention for the message to travel to all the ends of the earth. It describes that it would begin in Jerusalem and Judea, go to Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth. The journey of the Gospel was shared in Acts 2 – 7 to Jerusalem and Judea. By chapter 8 the Gospel goes to Samaria, and now in chapter 10 we are about to see the Gospel go to the Gentiles and begin its world-wide travels.

- A. A sincere seeker...Cornelius, a Gentile. vss. 1-8
- B. A starving Simon...God's Apostle at noon. vss. 9-18
- C. The Spirit's security...God says "go willingly." vss. 19-23

II. Pleasantries and Courtesies Extended. Acts 10:24-33

- A. Peter was astonished to see the great number that had gathered at the centurion's home.

Verse 24 – *"And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends."*

Verse 27 – *"And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together."*

Beloved, would we gather such a group at our home to hear the message of Jesus Christ? Not for a ball game or just a recreational function, but to hear a saving word concerning Jesus Christ!

- B. Peter assures Cornelius that he was not to receive worship but all honor went to Christ Jesus!

Acts 10:25-26, *"And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man."* (Read Revelation 19:10)

- C. Peter affirms that God is truly doing a transitional work by extending His salvation to those who are outside the confines of Judaism. With that he inquires of Cornelius what was his desire in sending for him, as we see in vss. 28-29, *"And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying (contradiction), as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?"*

NOTE: It was God's plan to eventually make salvation available to all peoples through the descendants of Abraham (Gen. 12:3). Paul the Apostle affirms this in Romans 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

- D. Peter pays attention to the testimony of Cornelius. Verses 30-33 tells us, *"And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God."*

III. Preaching of Peter Extraordinaire. Acts 10:34-48

- A. According to E. L. Bynum, we detect in Peter's sermon:

1. God saves people out of all nations and races. vv. 34-35

2. Peace only comes by Jesus Christ. v. 36

3. The marvelous life and works of Jesus. vv. 37-39

4. The Gospel of Jesus Christ. vv. 39-41 ...They believed what Peter preached. v. 43 (The Gospel)"

- B. The Powerful Purpose of God was Fulfilled! vss. 44-48

CLOSING

Beloved, the question I ask is, "Who's going to the Father's House because you sponsored a house gathering for them to hear a Heavenly message at your house?" Jesus said in Acts 1:8, *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* Also, the early church was not ashamed to carry a wonderful example according to Acts 2:46-47, *"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* Isn't it time for a Heavenly house gathering at your home? Read Joshua 24:14-18.

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LOOKING AHEAD:

September 3, 2017

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:8-17

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.