

## GREAT TRUTHS FROM A GENTILE

(Acts 10:33)

- I. **Cornelius understood there is one God.**
  - a. Notice that Cornelius said that they were in the sight of God and not “gods”.
  - b. Cornelius was a Gentile and the Gentile world was ridden with idolatry.
    - i. Notice Romans 1:21-30.
    - ii. Paul addressed this idea with the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 8:5-6).
  - c. So, before ever meeting with Peter, Cornelius had come to realize that there is only one God, and that polytheism was not true.
  - d. In this regard, he was like the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
- II. **Cornelius believed that God watched man.**
  - a. He said that we are in the sight of God, the idea being that God was watching.
  - b. Cornelius believed that God was aware of what was going on, but also that God approved of it.
  - c. At times, this was a concept that the Jews had a difficult time comprehending.
    - i. When Jacob fled to escape Esau’s anger, he came to Bethel.
    - ii. It was there that God spoke to Jacob in a dream, extending to Jacob the promise that had been made to his father and grandfather.
    - iii. When Jacob woke up from the dream, notice what he said... (Genesis 28:16).
  - d. Jonah was instructed by God to go to Nineveh.
    - i. Instead, Jonah went west instead of east, and got on a ship to Spain.
    - ii. His reason is found in Jonah 1:3.
  - e. Cornelius, a Gentile, had a clear understanding that God was aware of what was going in that very room.
- III. **Cornelius understood that truth existed that could save him.**
  - a. The group had been brought together to hear something.
  - b. In chapter 11, we read Peter’s retelling of the incident and he said that they were to hear words (Acts 11:14).
  - c. Cornelius knew that the angel had not told him what to do to be saved.
    - i. He didn’t believe that he would have some special feeling.
    - ii. He didn’t believe that he could follow his conscience and be okay.
  - d. People today are searching in all the wrong places for truth.
    - i. They are looking to men, to feelings, to the sky, or some other places.
    - ii. They must look in the Bible, the truth of God’s word, to be saved.
- IV. **Cornelius understood that God was in charge.**
  - a. He stated that he was to hear all things that are “commanded thee of God”.
  - b. He understood that God commanded some things of men and he wanted to submit to those things.
  - c. Commanded is translated from a Greek word that means “to arrange toward”.

- i. It carries the idea of prescribe, order, or command something.
  - ii. In many of the secular writings in which this word was found, it had to do with a decree issued by a sovereign ruler.
- d. Not only that, it is a verb in the passive voice form.
  - i. This suggests that God is the giver of commands and we humans are the receivers of those commands.
  - ii. There is room from only one to give commands with this word and it is not us.
- e. This word is also in the perfect tense, which means it's an action that has occurred in the past with continuing results.
  - i. God had commanded and that command would always stand.
  - ii. There is no disputing the command of God.
- f. Here is a Gentile that understood the fact that God is sovereign and His will is ironclad.
- g. Earlier, Peter had even argued with God (Acts 10:14), but Cornelius understood that was not to be done.

**V. Cornelius believed that he could not selectively obey God.**

- a. Cornelius wanted to hear all things commanded of God.
- b. All was the goal.
- c. Think of people today who simply want to pick and choose what they will obey from God.
  - i. How many times have we been filling out a form and a list is given with boxes to check beside each one?
  - ii. The heading will be "select all that apply to you".
- d. This is the way some want to treat the commands of God.
  - i. Here are God's commands.
  - ii. Pick they one's you want to apply to you.
- e. Cornelius understood it didn't work that way.
  - i. Naaman the Syrian didn't mind dipping in a river to be clean did he?
  - ii. He just wanted to be able to choose which river.
  - iii. That wasn't going to work then and it won't work now.
- f. Deliberate but partial obedience is no obedience.

**VI. Cornelius understood Peter's authority as a spokesman for God.**

- a. He said that he and his family were gathered to hear God's commands from Peter.
- b. To him, Peter's words carried as much weight as if God had spoken them to him directly.
- c. The words in red in our New Testaments are of no greater significance than the black words of Peter, Paul, or some other inspired writer.
  - i. There are Christians who will say that they don't agree with Paul on certain issues, or some other writer.

