

# The Conversion of Cornelius

- Acts 10

- Cornelius' character
- His attitude
- What is not the means by which he was saved
- How he was saved
- Acts 10:34-35

- **Cornelius' character**

- 10:2-4, 22

- **But he is lost!**

- 11:14, 17-18

✓ Cornelius' character

- Cornelius' good attitude

- Without delay – verse 33
- Eager to hear – verse 6, 24
- Wanted others to hear – verse 24
- Ready to hear- verse 33
- Wants to know the commands of God –  
verse 33
  - Of God
- Matthew 5:6; 7:7-8

- ✓ Cornelius' character
- ✓ Cornelius' good attitude
- **The means by which he was not saved**
  - Not saved by simply being religious
    - 10:2
    - Acts 4:12
    - Luke 6:46
    - Mark 7:8-9

- ✓ Cornelius' character
- ✓ Cornelius' good attitude
- **The means by which he was not saved**
  - Not saved by being a good moral man
    - 10:2, 22
    - Colossians 3:17
    - John 15:5

- ✓ Cornelius' character
- ✓ Cornelius' good attitude
- **The means by which he was not saved**
  - Not saved by a vision or by an angel
    - Both Cornelius and Peter had visions
      - Purpose – to get Cornelius a preacher so he could hear the gospel

- ✓ Cornelius' character
- ✓ Cornelius' good attitude
- **The means by which he was not saved**
  - Not saved through direct operation of the Holy Spirit
    - 10:6, 33; 11:14
    - Purpose of the Holy Spirit falling upon the hearers?
      - 15:7-11
      - 10:47; 11:17-18
  - The doctrine of Irresistible Grace is false!



- **The false teaching of irresistible grace**

“The Holy Spirit, in order to bring God’s elect to salvation, extends to them a special inward call in addition to the outward call contained in the gospel message. Through this special call the Holy Spirit performs a work of grace within the sinner which inevitably brings him to faith in Christ. The inward change wrought in the elect sinner enables him to understand and believe spiritual truth; in the spiritual realm he is given the seeing eye and the hearing ear. The Spirit creates within him a new heart or a new nature.” (The Five Points of Calvinism, by Steel & Thomas, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., p.48)

- **The false teaching of irresistible grace**

“Although the general outward call of the gospel can be, and often is, rejected, the special inward call of the Spirit never fails to result in the conversion of those to whom it is made. This special call is not made to all sinners but is issued to the elect only! The Spirit is in no way dependent upon their help or cooperation for success in His work of bringing them to Christ. It is for this reason that Calvinists speak of the Spirit’s call and of God’s grace in saving sinners as being ‘efficacious,’ ‘invincible,’ or ‘irresistible.’ For the grace which the Holy Spirit extends to the elect cannot be thwarted or refused, it never fails to bring them to true faith in Christ.” (The Five Points of Calvinism, by Steel & Thomas, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., p.49)

- ✓ Cornelius' character
- ✓ Cornelius' good attitude
- ✓ The means by which he was not saved
- **What did Cornelius do to be saved?**
  - Heard the gospel preached
    - 10:33
    - 1 Corinthians 1:21
  - Believed
    - 10:43
  - Repented
    - Acts 17:30
  - Confessed Jesus as Lord and Christ
    - Romans 10:10
  - Was baptized in water for the remission of sins
    - Acts 10:47-48

## Acts 10:34-35

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said:  
‘In truth I perceive that **God shows no partiality.** But in every nation **whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him**”

- **God is no respecter of persons**

- 10:34

- Acts 2:39

- Romans 2:11

- Galatians 2:6

- 1 Timothy 2:4

- 2 Peter 3:9

- “Whoever”

- The doctrine of Unconditional Election is false!

- **The false teaching of unconditional election:**

“The doctrine of election declares that God, before the foundation of the world, chose certain individuals, from among the fallen members of Adam’s race to be the objects of His undeserved favor. These, and these only, He purposed to save. God could have chosen to save all men (for He had the power and authority to do so) or He could have chosen to save none (for He was under no obligation to show mercy to any) – but He did neither. Instead, He chose to save some and to exclude others. His eternal choice of particular sinners unto salvation was not based upon any foreseen act or response on the part of those selected, but was based solely on His own good pleasure and sovereign will. Thus election was not determined by, or conditioned upon, anything that men would do, but resulted entirely from God’s self-determined purpose.” (The Five Points of Calvinism, by Steel & Thomas, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., p.30)

- **Whoever fears Him and works righteousness**
  - Proverbs 1:7
    - A first principle and foundation
  - Psalm 9:20
  - Psalm 96:9
  - Psalm 36:1
  - Fear that moves a man to ask, what has God commanded me?

- Whoever fears Him and works righteousness
- Righteousness used variously in the New Testament
  - God's righteous character
    - Psalm 48:10



- **Whoever fears Him and works righteousness**
  - Righteousness used variously in the New Testament
    - God's righteous character
    - God's plan/way of making man right
      - Romans 3:21-22
      - Romans 10:1-3
      - Romans 1:17
      - Hebrews 5:13

- **Whoever fears Him and works righteousness**
  - Righteousness used variously in the New Testament
    - God's righteous character
    - God's plan/way of making man right
    - The state of being right or just with God
      - James 2:23
      - Philippians 3:9
      - Romans 5:19

- **Whoever fears Him and works righteousness**
  - Righteousness used variously in the New Testament
    - God's righteous character
    - God's plan/way of making man right
    - The state of being right or just with God
    - Living righteously, according to God's law
      - 1 John 2:29
      - 1 John 3:7
      - Romans 6:13, 18

- **Whoever fears Him and works righteousness**

- To work righteousness is to submit to the righteousness of God, which is God's plan for making man right through Jesus Christ

- Romans 10:3

- Obeying the truth – Romans 2:8

- Obeying the gospel – Romans 10:16

- And keep on obeying, as in 1 John 3:7

- Ephesians 2:10

- Philippians 2:12-13

- How are we going to decide what is righteousness?

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- **Whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him**

- Our desire?

- To be accepted by Him!

- 2 Corinthians 5:9, 10-11

- Only in Christ

- Ephesians 1:6