



Obeying Christ Cures Prejudice **Acts 10:9-15, 30-35; Galatians 3:28-29**

“So Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him’” (Acts 10:34-35—ESV).

Peter went to the home of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, after Cornelius learned from an angel that he should send for Peter to teach him about God. Cornelius was not a Jew, but he believed in the true God of the Jews, and he helped them build their place of Bible teaching and worship. Cornelius feared or revered God and the fear of God is the first step toward wisdom. Cornelius did what was right and he helped the poor according to the moral law of God, but Cornelius knew that he lacked something and he prayed for God to give him what he lacked. During one of his prayers, God sent an angel to answer his prayers. God not only sent him an angel to prepare him for Peter’s visit; God also gave Peter a vision which convinced him that no ceremonial food laws or racial prejudice should prevent him from sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others, especially with people who feared God and made every effort to do what is right as far as they knew how. Cornelius’ experience proved the fulfillment of Jeremiah 29:13, “You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” Countless numbers of people have experienced the fulfillment of this promise of God without knowing the promise. They were earnestly seeking the true God with all their heart, and the Holy Spirit led them to those who could help them find the true God, or the Holy Spirit sent someone to them who could help them find the true God. When Peter first met Cornelius, he told him that according to the former laws of the Old Covenant he could not come into his home; but God had made a New Covenant that Peter did not yet completely understand, and that New Covenant revealed the fact that Jesus was both Lord and God, and God the Father wanted to save from destruction all who would believe in His Son, Jesus, the one the Father sent to give eternal life to all who would believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit confirmed this truth when He came upon these Gentiles who believed.