

“GOD IS NOT PARTIAL”

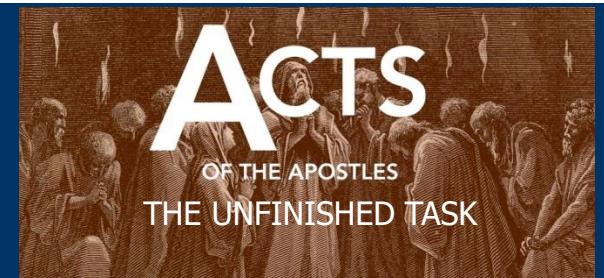
(Acts 10:23b-48)

Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 22

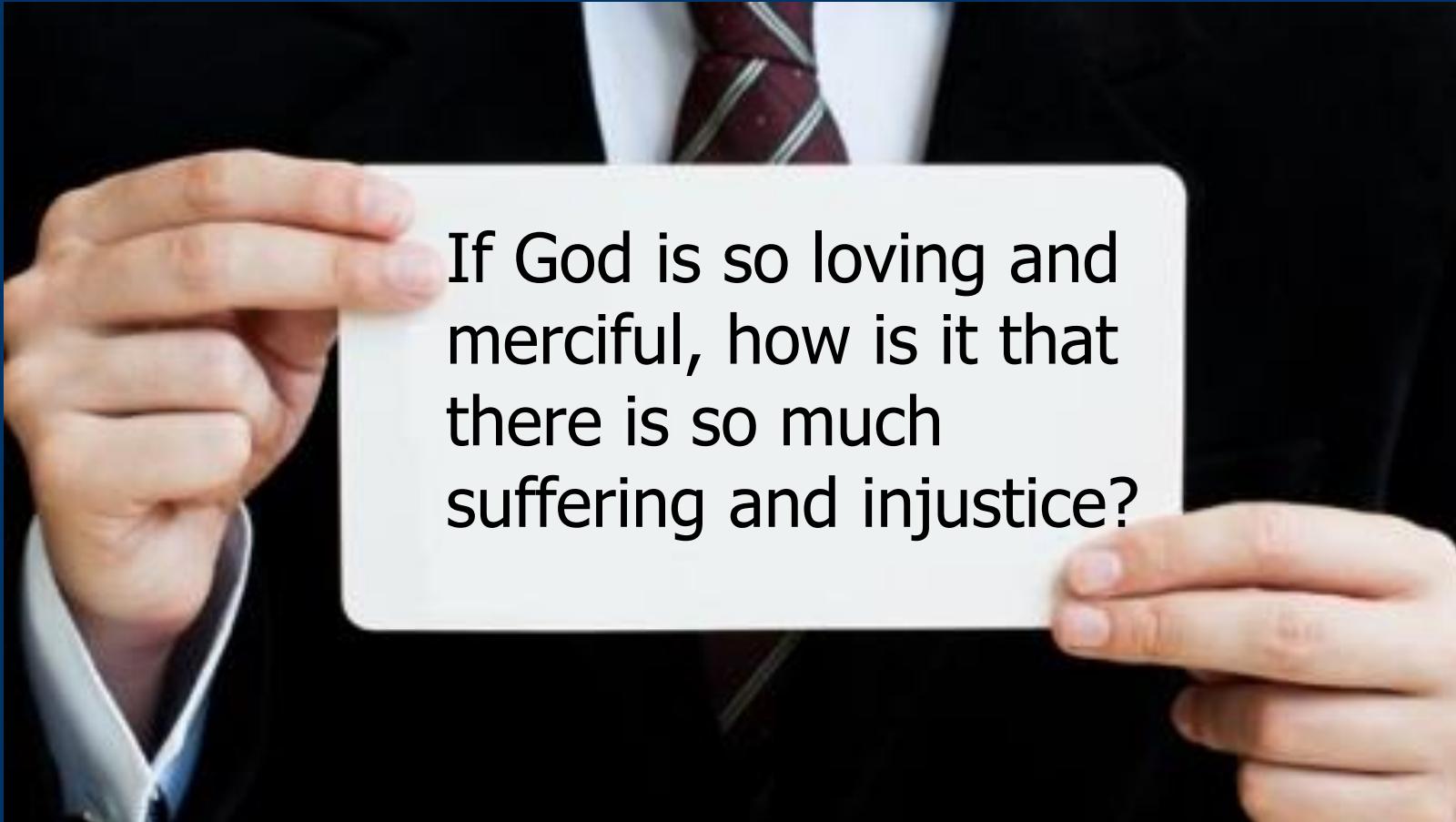
Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: June 16, 2019

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church

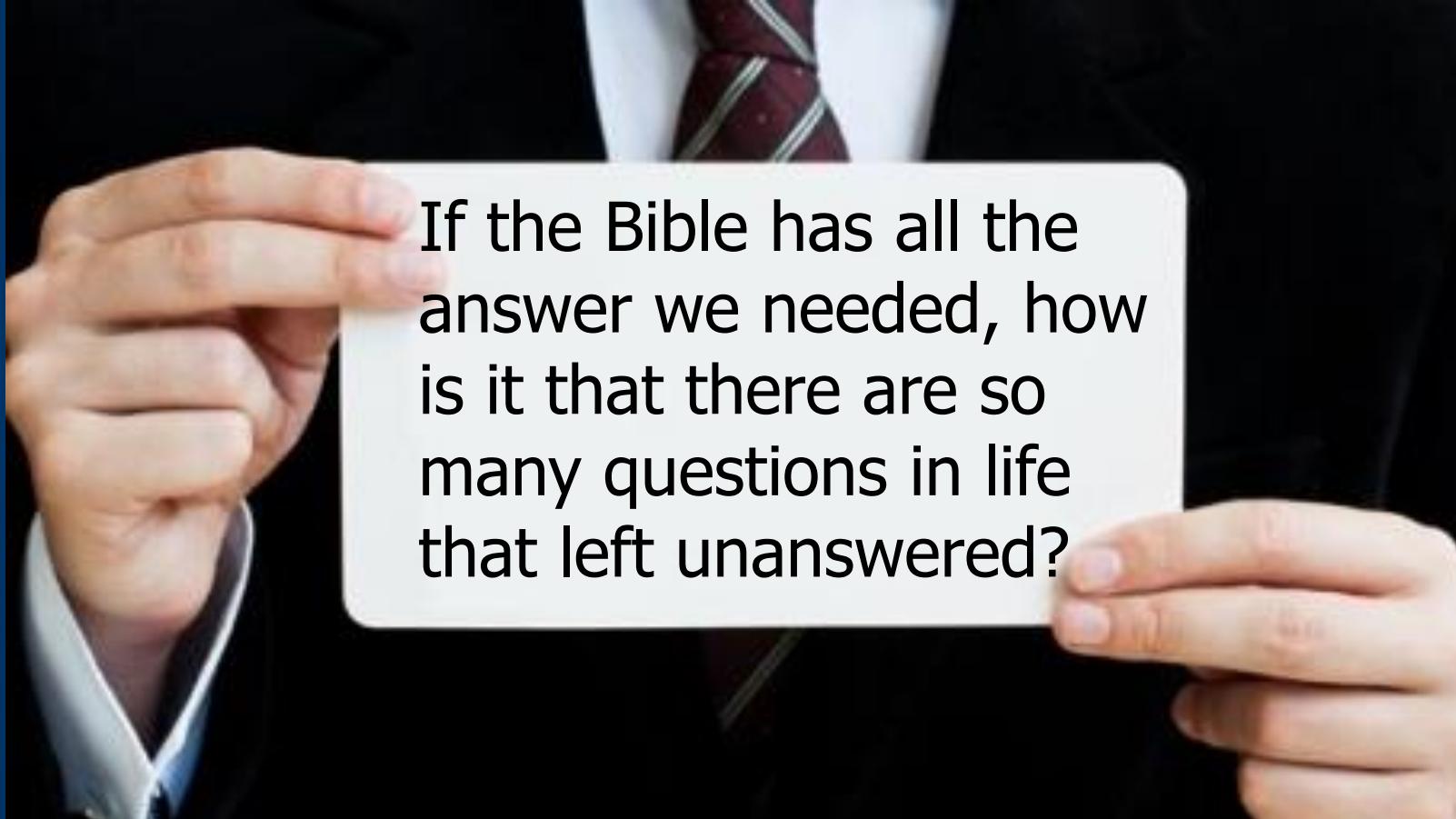


INTRODUCTION:

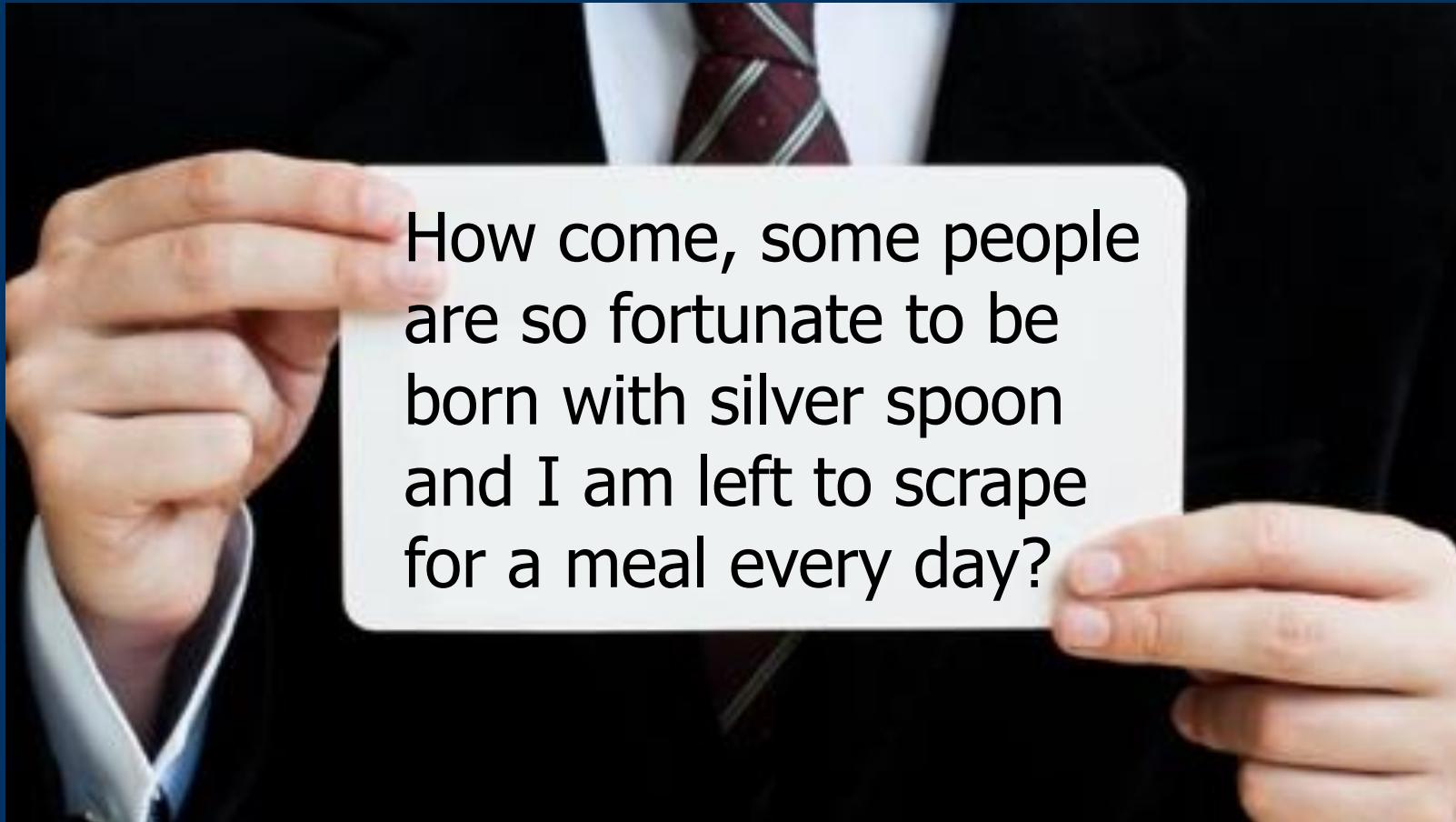


If God is so loving and merciful, how is it that there is so much suffering and injustice?

INTRODUCTION:



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Isn't God biased?

I. A PRINCIPLE TO REMEMBER: IMPARTIALITY

James 2:2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. **3** If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," **4** have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?



I. A PRINCIPLE TO REMEMBER: IMPARTIALITY

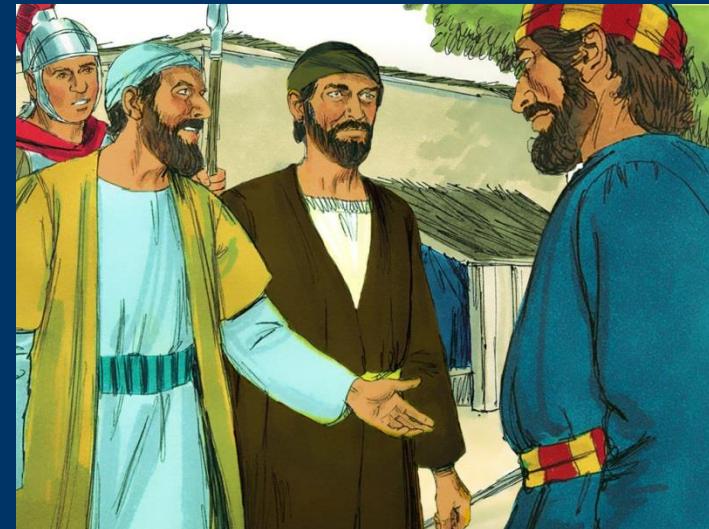
James 2:9 *But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.*



II. A CASE IN POINT: THE GENTILES

A) Peter's Hospitality

Acts 10:23b *The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along.*



II. A CASE IN POINT: THE GENTILES

B) Peter's Humility

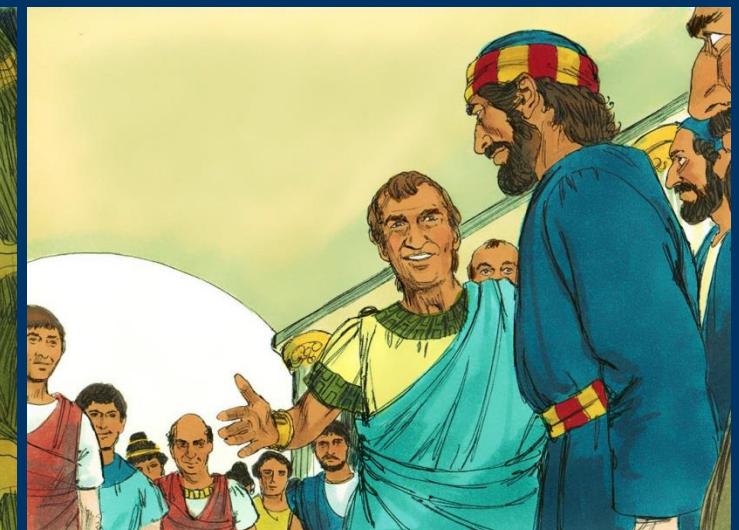
Acts 10:25 As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. **26** But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."



II. A CASE IN POINT: THE GENTILES

C) Peter's Honesty

Acts 10:28 *He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. 29 So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"*



II. A CASE IN POINT: THE GENTILES

D Cornelius' Response

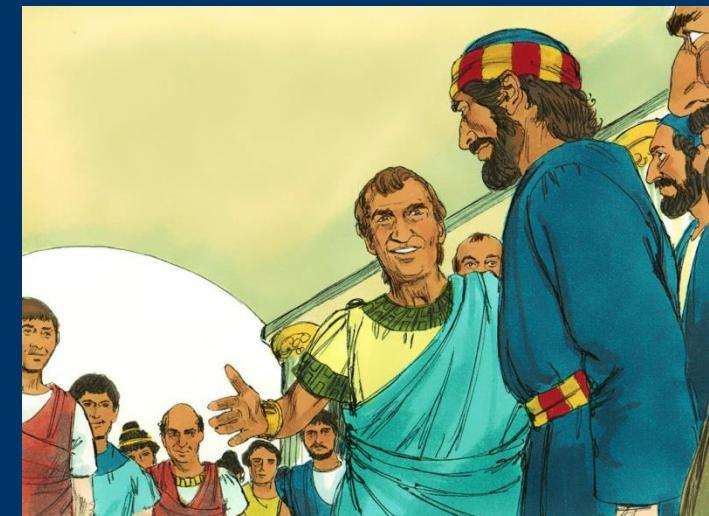
Acts 10:33b Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.



III. A MESSAGE OF GRACE: PEACE THROUGH JESUS

A) God and the Nations

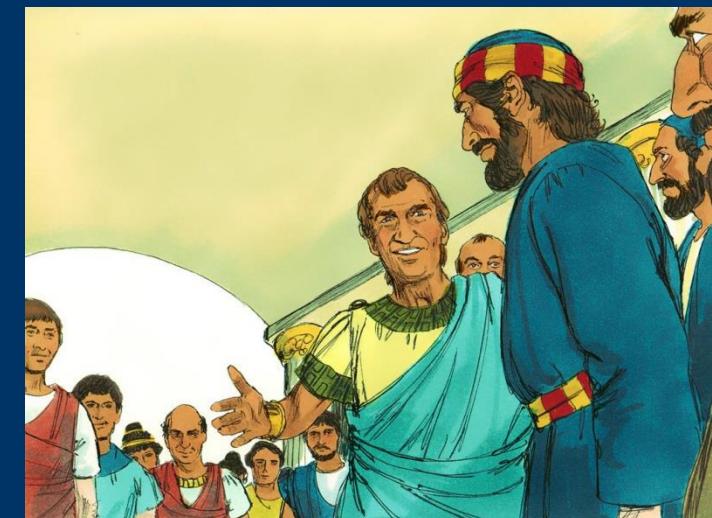
*Acts 10:34b "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism **35** but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. **36** You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*



III. A MESSAGE OF GRACE: PEACE THROUGH JESUS

B) God and Christ

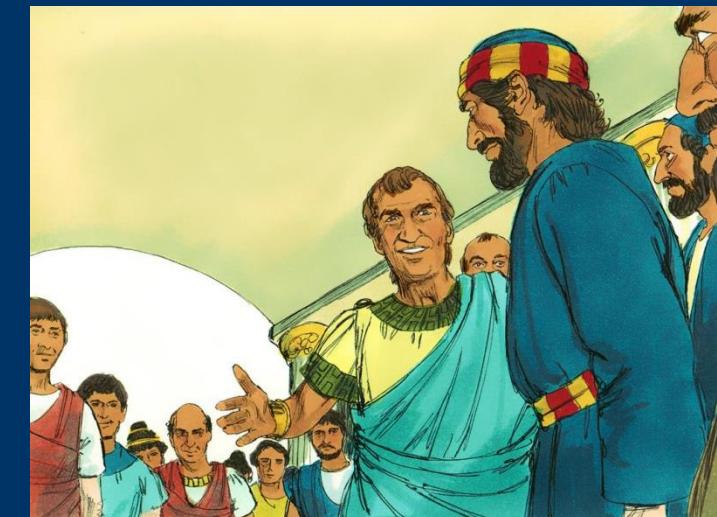
Acts 10:37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ***38*** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.



III. A MESSAGE OF GRACE: PEACE THROUGH JESUS

B) God and Christ

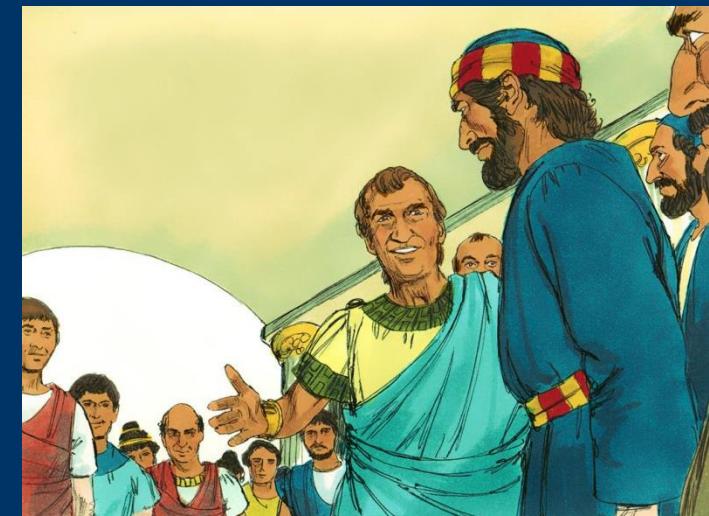
Acts 10:39 "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ***40*** but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ***41*** He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.



III. A MESSAGE OF GRACE: PEACE THROUGH JESUS

B) God and Christ

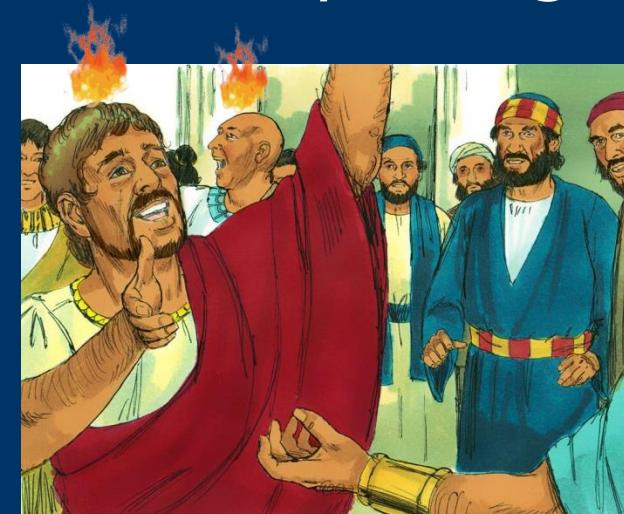
Acts 10:42 *He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*



III. A MESSAGE OF GRACE: PEACE THROUGH JESUS

C) God and Salvation

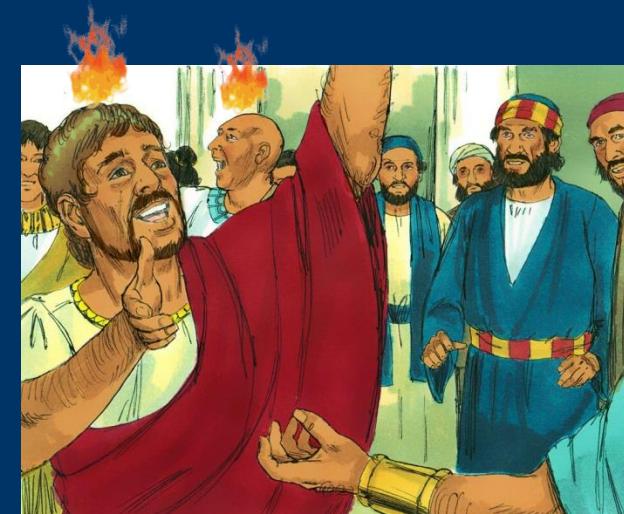
Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.



III. A MESSAGE OF GRACE: PEACE THROUGH JESUS

C) God and Salvation

*Then Peter said, **47** "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." **48** So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.*



CONCLUSION:



The story of Cornelius and Peter, shows the impartiality of God's grace and teaches a hopeful truth:

- A) There is no partiality in God's love.***
- B) There is no one the grace of God cannot liberate.***





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** *When God chose Abraham and build a nation out of his descendant, would you consider Him as bias? Yes or No, justify your answer.*
- 2.** *What do Paul and James say about favoritism?*
- 3.** *How did Peter demonstrate hospitality, humility and honesty to the Gentiles? What was Cornelius respond when he saw how Peter responded?*
- 4.** *How was God's grace reflected in Peter message to Cornelius?*



Scripture References:

Acts 10:23b-48