

Home Group Questions

the week of 5/24/2020

Acts 10:9-16 & various passages

20-20 VISION

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the unstoppable church by focusing on Peter's vision in Acts chapter 10. This vision highlights an amazing transition that happened in the early church as a result of the death of Jesus on the cross, and how he fulfilled the requirements of the Old Testament Law and established the New Covenant!

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Acts 10:1-16. Knowing that the early church was mostly Jewish, why is this account so important in understanding the transition that the early church was going through? Even though Cornelius was a god-fearing man, he still needed to hear about Christ. Scholars have debated about whether Cornelius would still have gone to heaven had he died just a few moments before meeting Peter. What do you think...why was it necessary for Cornelius to hear the gospel from Peter during this time in the early church?

2. Read 1 Acts 10:17-23. What is the connection between the vision that Peter receives of being commanded by the Lord to eat unclean animals and the incident that is about to occur...his going to the household of a gentile by the name of Cornelius? What was the reason for abolishing the food laws of the Old Testament as indicated by this vision?

-Read This Quote by Albert Mohler, President of Southern Seminary:

“As the Book of Acts makes clear, Christians are not obligated to follow the food laws as outlined in the Old Testament. This is made clear in Peter's vision in Acts 10:15. Peter is told, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' In other words, there is no kosher code for

Christians. Christians are not concerned with eating kosher foods and avoiding all others. That part of the law is no longer binding, and Christians can enjoy shrimp and pork with no injury to conscience.”

-Now read Matthew 5:17-18 How did Jesus fulfilling the law lead to these changes in the dietary laws of those who feared God? How did Jesus fulfilling the law allow for Peter to break the law that he himself refers to in this passage (see Acts 10:28) so that there are no walls existing between Peter and Cornelius?

3. **Read Ephesians 2:11-22.** This passage describes what the cross (and the New Covenant) accomplished in our lives and the access that it gave us through faith in the sacrifice of Christ. Discuss this passage and what our response should be to the change that Jesus accomplished for those of us who were far off and no hope in this world (verse 12). Knowing a bit of all the requirements that Jews had to go through under the law of the Old Testament in order to have access to God, what should be our response to the ease (& boldness) in which we are encouraged to enter the presence of God? What is the danger of the freedom and ease that we have in approaching God?

4. Pastor Mel share this chart comparing and contrasting the Old and New Covenants. Discuss this chart together:

<u>Old Covenant</u>	<u>New Covenant</u>
Given Thru Moses	Given Thru Jesus
Written on Stone	Written on the heart
Imperfect High Priest	Perfect High Priest
Law of sin and death	Law of the Spirit of Life
Law of works	Law of grace
Many Sacrifices/Regs	One Sacrifice/Freedom
Yearly Atonement	“Once for all” sacrifice

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that the Lord would give you a heart of celebration for the access and freedom that we have in Jesus Christ!!