

KINGDOM EXPANSION III: With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit the Apostles accept that it is the whole Gentile world that must hear the call of the Gospel.

Theme: The grace of God is far greater than man can conceive. As we perceive His work we must bow in wonder and praise, whole letting Him break through the barriers we have built.

Introduction: How many made profession of faith as a child? Then later on, were confronted with the real depth of sin in you, and later still, had to learn what God really had in store for you as a follower of Him? Had to learn of His real greatness and glory? I think this is the story for Peter.

I. Peter's CONVICTION (34,35)

A. He Finally understands!

1. *God Shows No Partiality* - 34b & 35a "

- not just about food.
- All peoples who come to him are "clean" as well!
- Not just for the Jewish lines

EX. Ghandi as student in Great Britain, considered Christianity.

2. All judged by same criteria.

- Not one standard for Jews and one for everyone else.
- Faith *and the works* that follow true faith (35)
- Romans 2:11 "For God Shows no partiality"
- James 2:1 Neither can we.

B. He preaches the Gospel!

1. Same message he always preaches – but now fit to the audience
2. All the prophets bear witness
3. "Everyone who believes" receives forgiveness of sins! Through His name!

NOTE: Peter has crossed the divide. Faithful Jew who saw the distinction between his people and the rest of the world – has just joined himself to a family that will outnumber the sands of the sea or the stars of the sky!

II. The Gentiles CONVERSION (44-48)

A. The Spirit comes in power

B. God's plan is made evident to all (circumcised believers) - they are amazed! (45)

ASIDE: What's the true sign of conversion here??

NOTE: True conversion always brings *transformation*.

III. The Churches CONFESSION

A. What's going on? - Peter is questioned.

B. Peter gives his report

- He recounts the whole story – For Emphasis!

- He reminds them of Jesus words “John baptized with water; but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

C. Peter's question -v.17

NOTE: We can hear the objections – as they die away!

D. Their Confession??

1. **Silence**

2. **Worship**

3. This is the proper end to which the gospel is preached – that all men, everywhere, in every place, language and age – God would be worshipped!! “Missions exist because worship doesn't!”

May we truly worship God as we hear of the Good News going to foreign lands and strange peoples.

Conclusion:

1. What will be/must be your next “conversion”??

2. Do you believe the Gospel is for the whole world?

3. Must God send an Angel to you before you will look to the savior for “repentance unto life”.