

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 10:44 | Session 29 |

Last time we ended at verse 43, **whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins**. There are several questions this verse solicits, but let's only consider one today:

How is this gospel Peter is preaching any different than the gospel we will soon see Paul preaching (e.g., the Philippian jailer; Acts 16:30,31)? Isn't this the same gospel of belief?

And, if Paul's gospel was a mystery, not made known to the *sons of men* (all men?), and if Paul's gospel was hid in God (Ephesians 3:3,59), only to be revealed to Paul (Ephesians 3:3), and then to the *other* holy apostles and prophets (see Acts 15), how can Peter (whom we presume is speaking of O.T. prophets) say **all the prophets give witness**?

Let's define what is the mystery that was revealed to Paul? It's found in Ephesians 3:6, and was threefold; that the *Gentiles are*:

1. *Fellowheirs* with the Jews, that is Gentiles could now be saved.

And,
2. *Of the same body* as Jews, I would take this to be the *body of Christ, the church as we know it today*.

And,
3. *Partakers of his promise in Christ*. What was God's promise in Christ? In 2 Timothy 1:1, Paul calls this promise *life which is in Christ Jesus*. So I would take this to mean the Gentiles could have everlasting life.

This is all accomplished by *grace*. *Previously, Gentiles were without hope and without God (Ephesians 2:11-13)*, but would be saved, by grace through faith, and not of works (Ephesians 2:8,9). Gentiles would not have to live by the Law (Acts 13:38,39). Peter acknowledged this in Acts 15:11, and says that the Jews *through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved, even as they* (the Gentiles).

ACTS 10:44-48 |

Verse 44-48—

The Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. The same thing that happened to the Jews in Acts 2, is now happening to the Gentiles in Caesarea. And the Jews who were in the room; that would be Peter and the others who came with him (verse 45 calls them **the circumcision**) they **were astonished**. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit was the same as in Acts 2, **they heard them speak with tongues**.

Tongues here is the Greek, *glossa*, which has to do with the organ in our mouth, the

actual tongue. Like the apostles in Acts 2, these Gentiles were speaking with another tongue other than their mother tongue (mother tongue is a phrase often used). In Acts 2, this ability was given to them **as the Spirit gave them utterance**. Here, it was **poured out** on them. They did not ask for this experience. It was all the Spirit's work. And what were they expressing as they spoke in **tongues**? They **magnified God**. And then, after these Gentiles believed, Peter **commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord**.

ACTS 11:1-18

Verses 1-3—

"Bad news flies faster still than good" was first written in the 1500's, and we would probably agree. In fact, we often say "no news is good news." In **Judaea**, the **apostles and the brethren...heard** what would be in their estimation, bad news. So much so that when **Peter** arrived in **Jerusalem**, they **contended with him**. The word **contended** is the same word the Spirit said to Peter in 10:20 **doubting nothing**. Peter heeded those words and went to the Gentiles as the Lord directed *without doubt*. The apostles in Jerusalem doubted. *Peter, what were you thinking! You ate with Gentiles?*

Verses 4-17—

Peter rehearsed, is literally *Peter began to explain to them*, and he repeats the entire matter with them.

The Gentiles received the **gift**, as did the Jews in Acts 2. The **gift** they received was not everlasting life, but the *gift of the Holy Spirit*. That will deserve more study on our part to work through all of that.

Verse 18—

They held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

What they apparently do not know yet, is that while the Gentiles were being granted the Holy Ghost and **repentance unto life** in God's Kingdom, Paul will begin showing the Gentiles they may be saved by Grace through faith and not of works. And we will study hard to figure all of that out in future sessions!