
WHAT'S WRONG WITH CORNELIUS?

Acts 10

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What's Wrong with Cornelius?

“For all have sinned”

“for all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of God”
(Romans 3.23)

Romans 3:23 (ESV): for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

“For all have sinned”

“as it is written: ‘None is righteous,
no, not one’
(Romans 3.10)

“as it is written: ‘None is righteous,
no, not one’
(Romans 3.10)

“For all have sinned”

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

(1 Corinthians 6.9-10)

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(1 Corinthians 6.9-10)

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

But I’m not that bad...
Basically a good person
Consider Cornelius

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

A devout man

Acts 10:2 (ESV) 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

Feared God

Acts 10:2 (ESV) 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

Gave alms generously

Acts 10:2 (ESV) 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

**Prayed continually
to God**

Acts 10:2 (ESV) 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

Upright

Acts 10:22 (ESV) And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.”

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

God-fearing

Acts 10:22 (ESV) And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.”

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

**Well spoken of by
the whole Jewish
nation**

Acts 10:22 (ESV) And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.”

“But, I’m not that bad.”

Consider Cornelius...

Was his *goodness*
good enough
in God’s eyes?

Was Cornelius’ goodness good enough in God’s eyes?

- Did God approve of him?
- Yes!!!
- 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.
- 31 and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.
- Was there still something missing?

What Cornelius Needed

What Cornelius needed...

What Cornelius Needed

“he will declare to
you a message by
which you will be
saved”

Acts 11:14 (ESV) 14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’

What Cornelius Needed

“he y Cornelius re to
yo A good man by
wi who still needed be
to be
saved!

Cornelius...

A good man!

He still needed to be saved.

Some things that won't save you

Some things that won't save you...

We all need to be saved...

Romans 2:5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Some things that won't save you

Our
own

“For by grace
you have been
saved through
faith. **And this
is not your
own doing;** it
is the gift of
God”

(Ephesians 2.8)

You cannot save yourself, you can not be saved on your own.

Ephesians 2:8: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Jeremiah 10:23: I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

Some things that won't save you

Our
own

Our
works

“who saved us ...
Not because of
our works”
(2 Timothy 1.9)

2 Timothy 1:9: who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

Some things that won't save you

Our
own

Our
works

“He saved us,
not because of
works done by
us in
righteousness”

(Titus 3.5)

Titus 3:5: he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Some things that won't save you

Our
own

Our
works

“He saved us,
not because of
works done by
us in
righteousness”

(Titus 3.5)

Matthew 7:21-23: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Some things that won't save you

Our
own

Our
works

“He saved us,
not because of
works done by
us in
righteousness”

(Titus 3.5)

The problem is that there is no work that you can do that will pay the price for your sin... You cannot do enough.

We must beware of the attitude of one who thinks that God is holding a balancing scale, so long as you do more good than bad you'll be okay.

Sadly it's not true.

Some things that won't save you

Our
own

Our
works

Zeal

“they have a
zeal for God,
but not
according to
knowledge”
(Romans 10.2)

Romans 10:1-3: Brothers, [1] my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Some things that won't save you

Our
own

Our
works

Zeal

“they have a
zeal for God,
but not
according to
knowledge”
(Romans 10.2)

- We have a special place in our hearts for those who are zealous for God.
- Often their sincerity and zeal are daunting to us; sometimes their zeal is a reproof of our own complacency.
- Zeal without knowledge of the truth, however, does not please God.
- It is still not enough.

Some things that won't save you



“You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone”
(James 2.24)

- James 2:24: You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.
- James 2:14: What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?
- James 2:19-20: You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?
- James 2:26: For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

What Cornelius Needed

What Cornelius Needed

What Cornelius Needed

Prayers and alms
ascended as a
memorial before
God

Despite his prayers and alms, more was needed!

4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

What Cornelius Needed

Prayer has been heard
and your alms have
been remembered
before God

- 31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.
- It's not like Cornelius was doing nothing.
 - Not just avoiding doing bad or evil things.
 - Actively seeking God
 - Actively helping people
- What more?

God's message for a good man

God's message for a good man

- 5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called **Peter**.

God's message for a good man

“To hear what you
have to say”

- 22 And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and **to hear what you have to say.**”

God's message for a good man

We are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.

- 33 So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to **hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.**
- Acts 11:14 (ESV) 14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

God's message for a good man

“he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved”

- Acts 11:14 (ESV) 14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

God's message for a good man

Hear

“he will declare to you a
message by which you will
be saved”

Needed to hear... so he could be saved.

God's message for a good man

Hear

“he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved”

Romans 10:14–17 (ESV) 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

God's message for a good man

Hear

God shows no
partiality

Acts 10:34-43: So Peter opened his mouth and said:

“Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,

35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

God's message for a good man

Hear

Anyone who fears
Him and does what
is right is
acceptable to Him.

35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Acceptable... but not saved!!!

God was providing what Cornelius needed more than anything.

God's message for a good man

Hear

Good news of peace
through Jesus Christ

36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),

God's message for a good man

Hear

Jesus Christ is
Lord of all

preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),

God's message for a good man

Hear

Jesus
Anointed
Doing Good & Healing
Put to death
Raised on the third day

37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.

He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,

40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,

41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses,

who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

God's message for a good man

Hear

Believe

Jesus is appointed to
JUDGE

- 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify
- that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.
- Judge: That is, to determine whether they are righteous or not... Sin = unrighteous
- 1 John 5.17: "All unrighteousness is sin"
- Need: forgiveness!

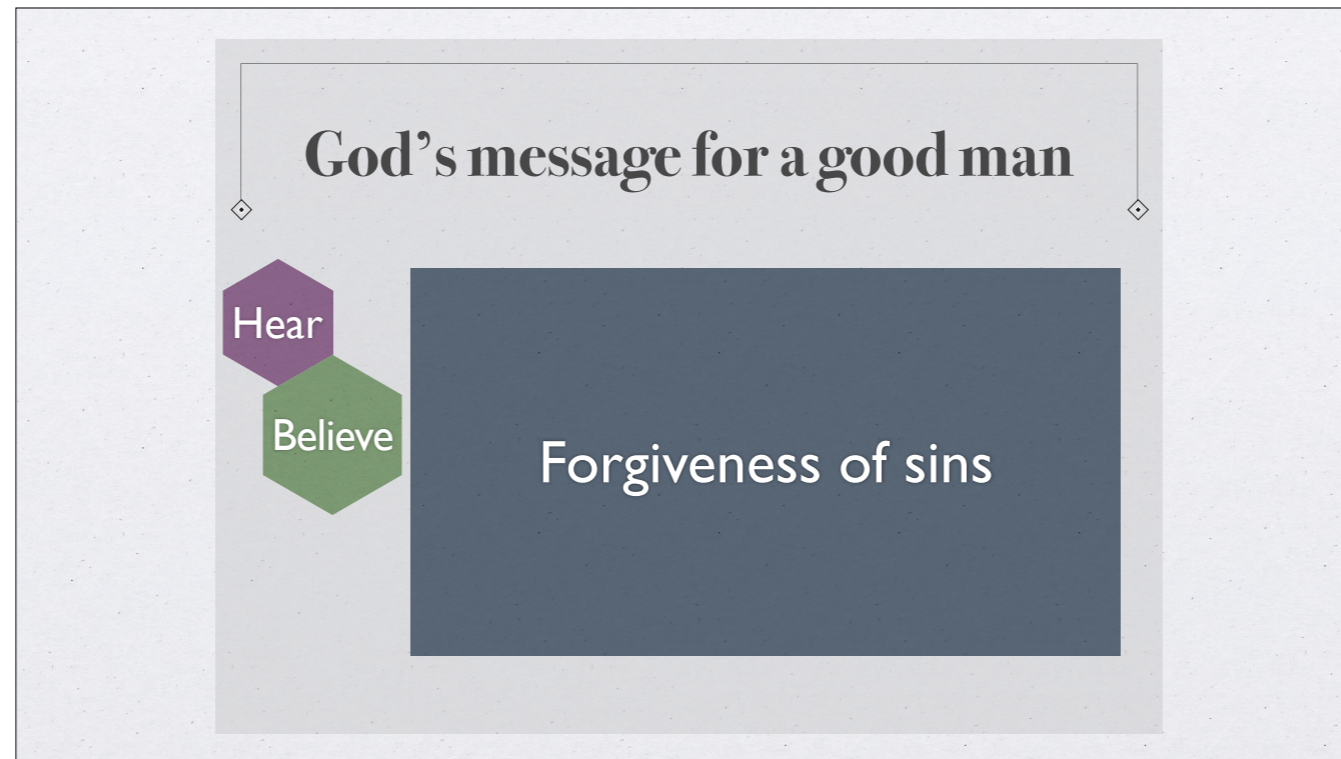
God's message for a good man

Hear

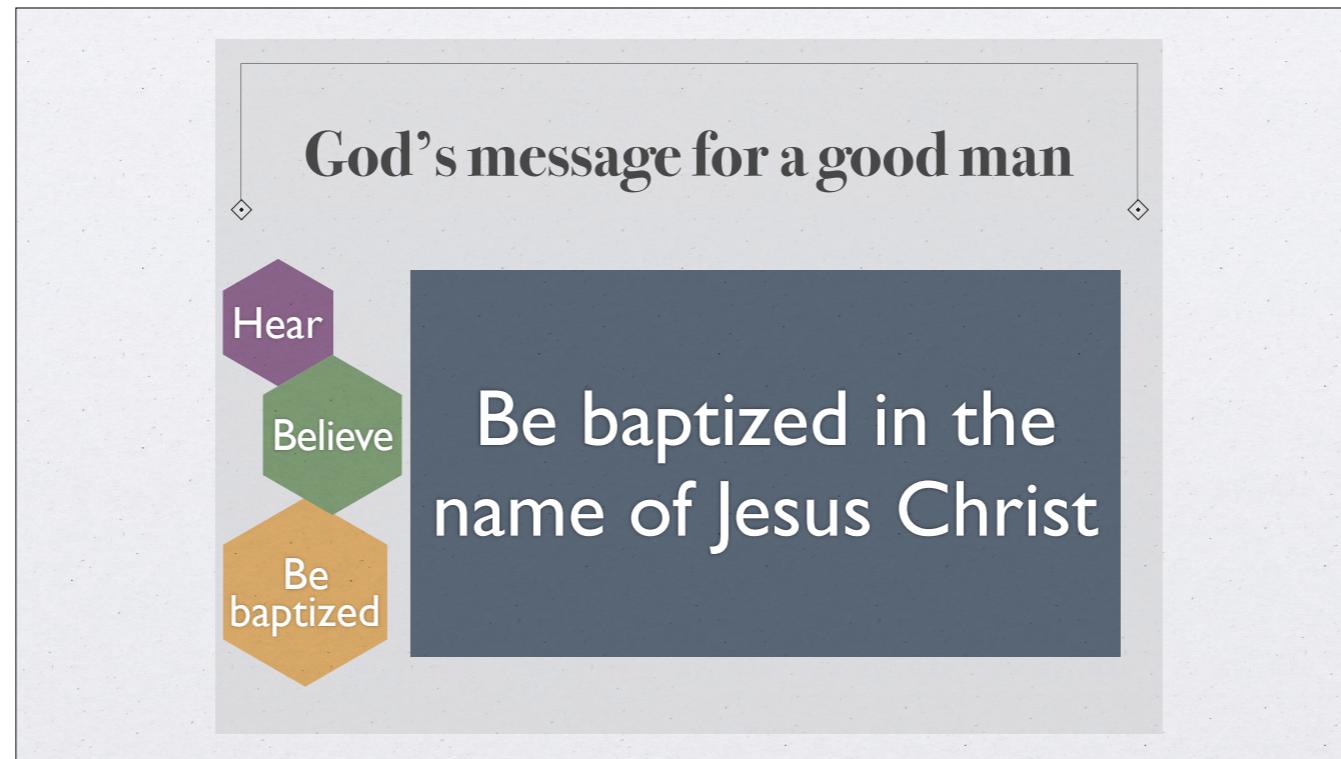
Believe

Everyone who
BELIEVES in Him

- 43 To him all the prophets bear witness
- that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”



- that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”



Acts 10:44-48: While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

God's message for a good man

Hear
Believe
Be baptized

God has granted
repentance that leads
to life

Acts 11:16-18: And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" 18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

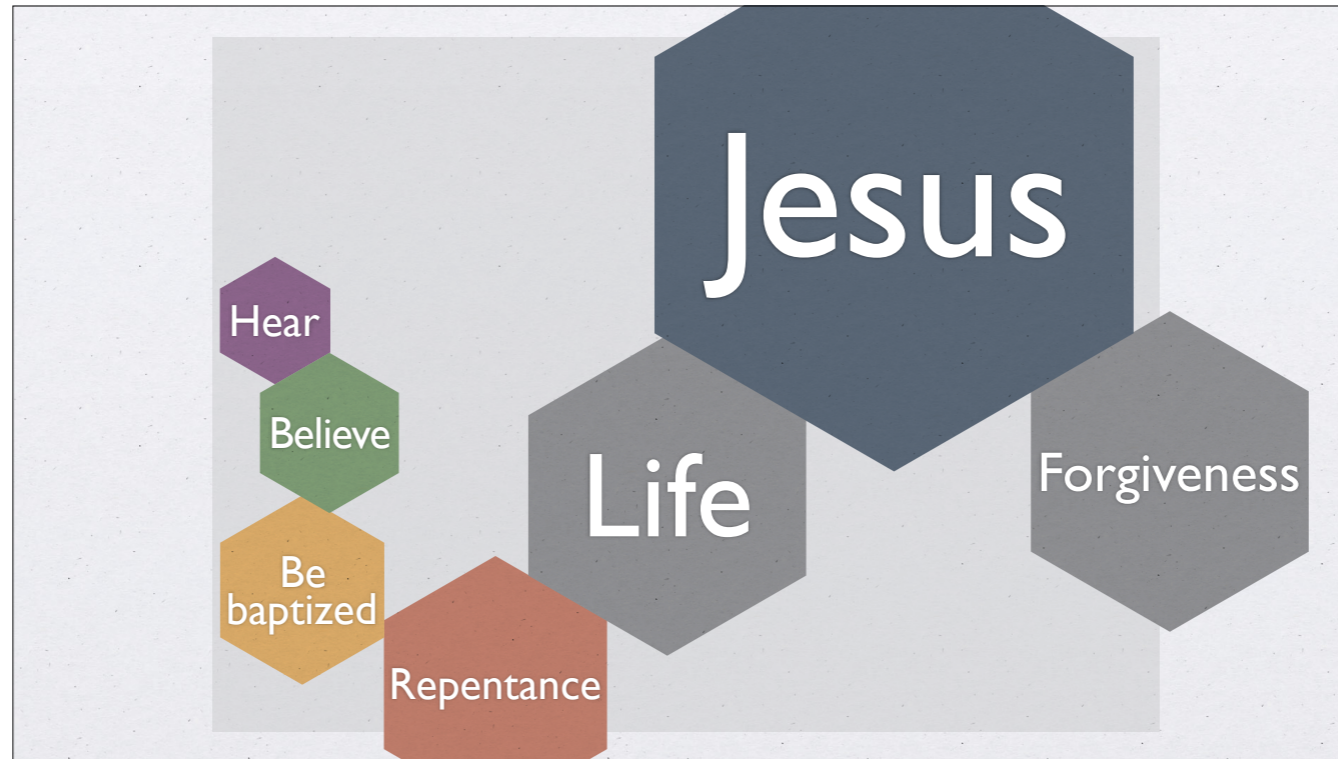


- Repentance
- Despite all that Cornelius did (prayed, gave alms, devout, and God fearing) he was still in sin
- he would be judged by Jesus and needed forgiveness of sins.
- This requires a determination to turn away from sin and turn toward God.



Life!

John 10.10: I came that they may have life and have it abundantly



Peace through Jesus and life through Him: forgiveness of sins

Are you a basically good person: do you fear God and worship Him? Good!

Do you really know about Jesus? Are you doing His will? Will you choose to be saved today?

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Miscellaneous

#07

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What's Wrong with Cornelius?

Acts 10

Synopsis: Despite Cornelius' essential goodness, God sends Peter to him with a message of salvation. We cannot be saved by ourselves or our good works. We must be saved through Jesus: Hearing of Him, Believing in Him, Being Baptized into Him, and Repenting. In this we find peace, forgiveness and life. (First presented 25 November 2007)

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"Let all that you do be done with love."