



Proclamation & Vindication



Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 446–447.

Acts 10:34–43 (NKJV)

34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—

37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached:



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38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who 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 things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.

40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,

41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.



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42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”



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Proclamation

- God is no respecter of person is a repeated theme in this message!
- The gospel is clear the word of God is for everyone.
- God is no respecter of persons as far as nationality and race are concerned.
- When it comes to sin and salvation, “there is no difference” (*Rom. 2:11; 3:22–23; 10:1–13*).



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We Need The Word Of God To Have Faith!

- There can be no faith apart from the Word, and Peter preached that Word.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.



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All Men Have The Same Creator, And All Men Need The Same Savior.

(Acts 17:26) (Acts 4:12)



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Acts 17:26 (NKJV)

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”



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Not by Works

- Acts 10:35 does not teach that we are saved by works, otherwise Peter would be contradicting himself (*Acts 10:43*).

Titus 3:4–5 (NKJV)

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

BETTER

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Fear God

- To “fear God and work righteousness” is a description of the Christian life. To fear God is to reverence and trust Him.

Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?



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- The evidence of this faith is a righteous walk.
- Peter then summarized the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Cornelius and his friends knew about Christ's life and death, for "this thing was not done in a corner" (*Acts 26:26*).



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- Peter made it clear that Israel was God's instrument for accomplishing His work (*Acts 10:36*), but that Jesus is “Lord of all,” and not just Lord of Israel.
- From the very founding of the nation of Israel, God made it clear that the blessing would be from Israel to the whole world (*Gen. 12:1–3*).



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- The public at large knew about Christ's life, ministry, and death, but only the Apostles and other believers were witnesses of His resurrection.
- As in his previous sermons, Peter laid the blame for the Crucifixion on the Jewish leaders (Acts 3:15; 4:10; 5:30), as did Stephen (Acts 7:52).
- Having finished this presentation of the historical basis for the Gospel message, Christ's death and resurrection, Peter then announced the good news:



Acts 10:43 (NKJV)

To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

- His hearers laid hold of that word “whosoever,” applied it to themselves, believed on Jesus Christ and were saved.



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Vindication

- Peter was just getting started in his message when his congregation believed and the Holy Spirit interrupted the meeting (*Acts 11:15*).
- God the Father interrupted Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration (*Matt. 17:4–5*), and God the Son interrupted him in the matter of the temple tax (*Matt. 17:24–27*).
- Now, God the Spirit interrupted him—and Peter never was able to finish his sermon!



- The Holy Spirit was giving witness to the Jews who were present that these Gentiles were truly born again.
- After all, these men had not seen the vision with Peter and come to understand that the Gentiles were now on an equal footing with the Jews.



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- The new believer received evidence of salvation by speaking in tongues, and it does not suggest all will immediately speak in tongue though every true believer will certainly use his or her tongue to glorify God (*Rom. 10:9–10*).

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.



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- This was an event parallel to Pentecost: the same Spirit who had come on the Jewish believers had now come on the Gentiles (*Acts 11:15–17; 15:7–9*).
- No wonder the men were astonished!



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Reshaping the Church

- This event, the period of transition in the early history of the church comes to an end.
- Believers of all nationalities receive the Spirit of God and are united in the body of Christ.



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Reshaping the Church

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV)

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Galatians 3:27 (NKJV)

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.



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- These Gentiles were not saved by being baptized; they were baptized because they gave evidence of being saved.
- To use Acts 2:38 to teach salvation by baptism, or Acts 8:14–16 to teach salvation by the laying on of hands, is to ignore the transitional character of God's program.
- Sinners have always been saved by faith; that is one principle God has never changed. But God does change His methods of operation, and this is clearly seen in Acts 1–10.



- The experience of Cornelius and his household makes it very clear that baptism is not essential for salvation.
- From now on, the order will be: hear the Word, believe on Christ, and receive the Spirit, and then be baptized and unite with other believers in the church to serve and worship God.



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