

rather, they were ritually unclean because they were not Jews. The law prohibited the Jews from contact with Gentiles (eating with them or even being in their homes).

Peter's evangelistic efforts, however vast, were exclusively to the Jewish people, until God brought him to the home of Cornelius, a Roman Centurion. Cornelius was devout and "God-fearing" (10:2); this meant he was not a full Jewish proselyte, but he believed in one God and respected the moral and ethical teachings of the Jews.

Both Cornelius and Peter experienced visions from God, and despite Peter's reluctance, the two came together so that Cornelius could hear what Peter had to say.

This is important: Cornelius believes in God, prays, lives righteously and gives to the poor; yet, apart from the gospel Peter shares, he cannot have fellowship with God. Apart from God's grace, Cornelius will spend eternity in hell.

Salvation is for everyone; even those who don't resemble us. With Christ's help, we can put aside the partiality that binds us, and love people as He does.

2. The visit to Cornelius's house.

Cornelius assembles his family and friends to hear Peter's message. When Peter arrives, Cornelius meets him and falls at his feet in reverence—this is the messenger sent by GOD! Peter bids him to rise, lest he worship a man rather than God.

He enters the house, where Cornelius tells him of his vision. He tells him that they have all gathered to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us (33).

3. The meaning of Peter's Testimony .

"I now see...God does not show favoritism..."

This is significant. Imagine how it affects Peter. All his life he held Gentiles in low regard. They were, simply put, beneath him. This sounds harsh, I know, but think about it—his people could not even enter the home of a Gentile nor share a meal with them.

What he understood of the gospel he believed was restricted to the Jews. Suddenly he sees that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. This is more than new understanding; it is a foundation-rocking, mind-bending change in theology.

God accepts men from all nations. No longer does one's heritage or ethnicity determine his accessibility to God. Until now, Peter was convinced otherwise; only his people had access.

God accepts those who fear him and do right. Those, like Cornelius, with a desire for holiness, a heart for benevolence and a love for God can receive everlasting life because of Christ.

Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Everyone, without exception. This is the message of the cross; that everyone receives the same offer of forgiveness; it is only for them to accept it.

4. The Challenge for us today.

Sometimes, like Peter, we get to thinking we have a relationship with Christ that is a bit too exclusive; exclusive to those who think like me, act like me, and share the same ideals. This leads to stifled outreach. We only reach out to those with whom we are comfortable; those who are "like us." The rest of the community is on their own. Sometimes we feel this way toward others in the church. We begin to analyze others based on our criteria.

This leads to cliques in the church, which serve no purpose other than to glorify Satan and weaken evangelistic efforts. This is what happens when I separate myself

from others because of prejudice. When I find fault with others, I promote prejudice in the body, and Satan delights in another dead fellowship.

Understand your own position in Christ. Once you accept that your own salvation was a gift; one you did not qualify for; it is impossible to hold others to a different standard. Consider God's plan for those who are not like you. He's put that person into your path for a reason; what might it be? Can you have a positive influence on that person? Can he or she have one on you? You are both here to serve God; anything standing between the two of you stands between you and the goals God has set for you to accomplish.

Remember the impartiality of the gospel. Peter learned, much to his amazement, that the gospel was offered equally to everyone. That means those like you, and those not like you. In this light, we can extend God's love to everyone, just as he extended it to us. Salvation is for everyone; even those who don't resemble us. With Christ's help, we can put aside the partiality that binds us, and love people as He does.

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

Conclusion:

Some people say they have no call to work for God. That is not true. God has given to every man his work. But it is true that some people have not heard the call. The call is a still small voice, and it is heard only by the soul that has withdrawn from the world, and is waiting before God. Some of our ears are only open to the world's sounds, to its business, pleasure, excitement, and crimes. The daily newspaper conveys much more to us than God's Word. The voice of God is drowned.

Isaiah was one day in the Temple. He was waiting before God. Presently the vision of God filled him. Everything else retreated. The whole horizon was ablaze with Deity. Then he began to hear voices. He caught the sound of sacred song.

The seraphim cried one unto another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." The contrast was so great to that with which Isaiah was familiar that he said, "Woe is me for I am unclean; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of an unclean people."

But Isaiah waited on. His lips were cleansed. He was told his iniquity was taken away, and his sin purged. Still he waited, and then came the call.

"I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'" By long waiting Isaiah was prepared for this, and also for the response, "Here am I; send me."

Jesus one day pointed out to His disciples the ripening harvest field, and He said: "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." Then from the praying band He chose the twelve. Prayer about the field prepared them to hear the call.

All expansion of God's work calls for a direct putting forth of Divine power; but the expansion means, on man's side, enlarged ideas and sympathies, readiness for enterprise, susceptibility to the leading of the Holy Spirit; and for these qualifications, prayer is absolutely necessary.

Salvation Is For Everyone!

Thank You, Veterans

In God's providence it shouldn't surprise us that Thanksgiving Day comes just a few days after

Veteran's Day. After we have duly honored those who have defended our freedom, we have the opportunity to thank God for all His blessings, including the freedom we have in our nation as well as in Christ.

When Dwight D. Eisenhower was President from 1953 to 1961, he received a letter from eight-year-old Keith Aiken of Trumbull, CT. Kevin wrote, "After listening to the news about the cold war, I am worried about the people in the world. In thinking it over, I have a plan. Get all the leaders together who want war, put them in a ring and let them fight it out."

Perhaps many veterans of foreign war feel this way about war. Just let those who want to fight, do the fighting. Don't involve everybody else in it. Most vets who've been to war don't want to have any part of it again. Period. War is a terrible thing and yet it seems that war is inevitable in our world. In Matthew 24:6 Jesus said, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come."

Most Bible commentators believe, however, that Jesus was talking about the coming destruction of Jerusalem, which took place about 70 A.D. But I believe that wars are also a sign of the second coming of Christ. Wars do seem inevitable.

General Sherman is famous for saying, "You don't know the horrible aspects of war. I've been through two wars and I know. I've seen cities and homes in ashes. I've seen thousands of men lying on the ground, their dead faces looking up at the skies. I tell you, war is hell!" While many of us can't question Sherman's feelings and convictions about war since we've never been there, based on Scripture, perhaps it's better to say "War is Hellish," but not Hell.

World War II qualifies as perhaps the worst war in history. In all, 61 countries with 1.7 billion people, three-fourths of the world's population, took part. In terms of money spent, it has been put at more than \$1 trillion dollars, which makes it the most expensive war of all. The human cost of lives, not including the 5 to 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust, is estimated to have been 55 million dead – 25 million of those military and 30 million civilian.

Some aspects of war are never right, regardless of the war, but we must support those who are willing to go and give on behalf of their country. Someone wrote the following entitled, "It Is the Veteran."

It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion. It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the VETERAN, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble. It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the VETERAN, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote. It is the VETERAN, who salutes the Flag, who serves under the Flag.

This week we honored all our armed service veterans. To you, veterans, we owe a debt of gratitude because you were willing to go, to serve and to give on behalf of the United States of America. Thank You!

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 15

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 16

O Team 6:30 pm

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: KenNice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp ? ? ?

Alternate: ? ? ?

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 22

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 23

W Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

November 12 — Reception for Don and Jolette Boyer at Grand Oaks

Camp from 2-4 pm (leave at 1 pm from the church)

— Operation Christmas Child Collection Day

November 19 — Business Meeting and Dinner at Noon

— Collect for the Long Family

November 23 — Thanksgiving

23 — 24 Office will be closed.

November 26 — Diversicare

November 27 — Workers Meeting

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will meet tonight,

Sunday, November 12.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Also, we will continue our study on *Fearless*. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm.

Grand Oaks Camp Reception for Don and Jolette Boyer Today, November 12, from 2-4 pm

Please come and share in a time of grateful appreciation for all the faithful years of service Don and Jolette have spent serving the Lord in the capacity of camp manager. We will leave at 1 pm.

Operation Christmas Child

Shoe Box Collection Day—

Today, Sunday, November 12

There are two boxes left on the front pew yet to be adopted. It only takes a little time to pack one.

Also, there are printed labels on top of the piano. The suggested shipping price for this year is \$9.00.

Servants Needed

Help! Our current van drivers need some relief! Would you be willing to drive one month (or more) out of the year? (Thanks Joe Coats for volunteering!)

THANKSGIVING DINNER AND

BUSINESS MEETING

We will have our

Thanksgiving Dinner and
regular business meeting

immediately following the
morning worship service
next Sunday, November 19.

For the Record-

Attendance: November 5, 2017

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Sunday School..... | 39 |
| Visitors..... | 2 |
| Total..... | 41 |
| Contacts Made..... | 10 |
| Morning Worship..... | 48 |
| Children's Worship..... | N/A |
| Sunday Night | N/A |
| Wednesday Night | 17 |

Financial Record:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Budget | \$ 2,040.52 |
| Offering Received ... | \$ 3,283.00 |

Offering Received by Mail:

Bro. Al Brown
Eric & Shelly Thompson

November Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

November Van Driver:

George Burgess
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

November Birthdays:

07...Alva Lou Schottel
13...Shirley Wilson
14...Ann Riddle
16...Nancy McCamy
22...Linda Dotson
23...Floetta Conard
27...Linda Kerns

November Anniversaries

Bill and Donna Dunn
November 3, 1995
Jack and Flo Conard
November 4, 1956
John and Dottie Wildberger
November 23, 1962
Jim and Brigida Winans

November 28, 1975

Prayer Requests ...

Brigida Winans—heel surgery
Mike Green—infection and knee
Gina Harr—surgery recovery
Joe Coats—pacemaker
Don Beavers
Van Meter family
Curtis Conard
Emily Jones & baby
Chad Bradford—heart surgery
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—home isolation
Gary and Sharon Yarbrough
Larry Danner—cancer
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Troy Griswold—cancer treatment
Gary & Peggy Fewins and family
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Ellen Blanton Lois Ulmer
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Louanne Laurence Leona Reynolds
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
