

## November 17 Answers

- 1) Cornelius' conversion teaches us several lessons: (1) We must be truly **born** again, for goodness and religiosity alone will not save us. Paul was one of the most devout, religious men of his day, but he was not saved until he believed in Jesus. (2) We must **draw** near to God, for when we do, He will draw near to us. Cornelius sought God with all his heart, and God rewarded his sincerity by sending him the special revelation he needed to have faith in Christ (Heb 11:6). (3) We must preach **Jesus**, for there is salvation in no one else (Acts 4:12). The NT is clear that faith in Christ is **necessary** for salvation, and we must be diligent to make the person and work of Jesus the cornerstone of our witness. (4) We must never allow **social** customs or **ethnic** differences to keep us from reaching out to those in need. Peter regarded the Gentiles as unclean, and it is unlikely that he would have gone to see Cornelius apart from the vision. We need to examine our hearts for any signs of prejudice or pride. (5) We must not put our trust in anything other than Christ to be saved, for if any **work** (e.g., circumcision) is necessary for salvation, then Jesus' sacrifice is not **sufficient** (Gal 2:17). We are justified by **faith** alone in Christ alone, and this vital truth would be the battleground of the next great crisis for the church.