

# unexpected

THE DIVINE ⇌ IN BETWEEN

ACTS 10:1-48

## God's reach extends beyond our expectations

### I. \_\_\_\_\_ defies cultural expectations. (vv. 1-8)

*At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. vv. 1-2*

- A. He is not the type of person we expect to be interested in things of God.
- B. He is not a stereotypical Roman soldier.
- C. He receives a visit from an angel.

### II. \_\_\_\_\_ defies Peter's expectations. (vv. 9-23)

*And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. vv. 13-16*

- A. God gives Peter three unexpected commands.

**INVITATION:** Rise, kill, and eat.

**CORRECTION:** What God has made clean, do not call common.

**MISSION:** Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation.

### III. \_\_\_\_\_ defies Jewish expectations. (vv. 24-48)

*And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean." ... So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality ..." vv. 28, 34*

- A. Peter breaks Jewish law. (v. 28)
- B. Peter shows no partiality with the gospel. (v. 34)
- C. Peter baptizes Gentiles. (v. 47)

God's reach  
extends beyond  
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**EXPECTATIONS** when ...

Our \_\_\_\_\_ don't overrule God's Word.

Our obedience doesn't require  
\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

Our love doesn't show \_\_\_\_\_.

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13*

## SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts chapter 10. Taking into account the last couple of passages studied, how did God prepare Peter to take the gospel to Cornelius? Why was this necessary?

2. What kind of man was Cornelius? What evidence do you see here that Cornelius expected God to work?

**“IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE how religious a person can be and still not be saved. Certainly, Cornelius was sincere in his obedience to God’s law, his fasting, and his generosity to the Jewish people (compare this to Lk 7:1-10). He was not permitted to offer sacrifices in the temple, so he presented his prayers to God as his sacrifices (Ps 141:1-2). In every way, he was a model of religious respectability—and yet he was not a saved man. The difference between Cornelius and many religious people today is this: He knew that his religious devotion was not sufficient to save him. Many religious people today are satisfied that their character and good works will get them to heaven, and they have no concept either of their own sin or of God’s grace. In his prayers, Cornelius was asking God to show him the way of salvation (Acts 11:13-14).”**

**WARREN WIERSBE**

3. What does the fact that God listened to Cornelius and answered his prayer tell you about the character of God?

4. Salvation is of course a divine work of God’s grace. But why do you think He works through humans rather than using angels or some other way to proclaim the gospel?

5. What prejudice or partiality on your part has God revealed to you in this sermon? How will you address those things going forward?

6. What can you use from Peter’s message to Cornelius to share the gospel with people you know? How will you make yourself available to God this week to do that?

### A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn’t based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God’s love for us. Here’s how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)  
“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:  
“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps).

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you’d like to find out even more, visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events).

**QUARTERLY DAY OF PRAYER** Setting aside an hour on Monday, Aug. 7, we’ll gather to pray together! Focusing on the richness of our salvation and reading through verses in Ephesians, this will be a special time. Be a part by coming to the Chapel from noon to 1 p.m. or follow along with a time of personal prayer with a prayer guide at [www.ccbcfamily.org/qdop](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/qdop).

**MUSIKGARTEN** This fall, discover the joy of music and watch your child’s love for it blossom in an engaging and interactive class, Musikgarten. Join us for 13 weeks of musical exploration, with classes scheduled once a week for 30 minutes. Don’t miss out on this incredible opportunity to develop your child’s musical skills! Visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/musik](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/musik) to register.

**RE|ENGAGE YOUR MARRIAGE** re|engage offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small groups. Classes begin Sunday, Aug. 13! Register today by visiting [www.ccbcfamily.org/reengage](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/reengage).

**KIDSCAMP TO GO** Be a part of the largest outreach program of the year and take KidsCamp to your neighborhood! Equipped with all the supplies and teaching materials needed, you’ll have everything to share the hope of Jesus and take the fun of KidsCamp to your community. Learn more about this REACH opportunity that the whole family can do together by visiting [www.ccbcfamily.org/togo](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/togo).

**BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION** If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation, we’d love to chat with you about volunteering with our Production Team. Get the conversation started by visiting [www.ccbcfamily.org/production](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/production).

**MANPOWER** Hoping to create a space for widows to experience encouragement and practical support, Christ Chapel hosts one Saturday every month for our ManPower group to help with outdoor projects and home maintenance tasks. Learn more about being a part by emailing [ManPower@christchapelbc.org](mailto:ManPower@christchapelbc.org).

**ENCOURAGED & EQUIPPED** Our Women’s ministry has an incredible resource for you! Search for the *Encouraged & Equipped* podcast and hear stories from other CCBC women as they share about how the gospel has changed their lives and what that practically looks like in the everyday. From their wisdom to all the laughs, you’ll want to join in on the conversation! Find it today on your favorite podcast platforms.

**THERE’S A JOB FOR YOU** From audio and students to communications, every role at Christ Chapel makes it possible for us to make much of Jesus! Start a conversation today by visiting [www.ccbcfamily.org/jobs](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/jobs) to get started.



**LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?** Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

**IF YOU’D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE.** The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.