

1. Last week we discussed how the Apostle Paul reached out to Gentiles in Athens (Acts 17:16 et seq.). In what ways were the Gentiles encountered by Peter in Acts 10:1-8 different from the Gentiles in Athens? In what ways were they the same?
2. Read Lev. 11:47; Acts 10:9-16. Why did Peter, while in a vision or trance, object to eating any of the creatures he saw coming down from heaven on a sheet? What was God trying to teach him? Why do you think the vision was repeated three times? Cf. Jn. 21:15-17.
3. Read Acts 10:17-22. Didn't Peter already know the answer to the question he asked the three men in v. 21 (see v. 20)? If so, why did he ask the question? Was Peter doubting what God told him in v. 20, or stalling for time? What do you think was going through his mind when he asked that question? See the first part of v. 17 and 19.
4. Read Acts 10:23-33. What separate steps did Peter take in entering the world of the Roman centurion? How much time did he spend with the centurion's emissaries? What kinds of activities did they probably share during that time? How did Peter begin to explain his new understanding of "clean" and "unclean" with other Jewish Christians?
5. Read Acts 10:34-43. Which verses best summarize the broader lesson (beyond eating the right kind of food) that God was trying to teach Peter in the vision of the sheet lowered from heaven? Would most evangelicals today agree that God accepts all those "who fear him and do what is right?" Is this salvation by "works"? See especially v. 43.
6. Read Acts 10:44-48. What was unusual about the way the Gentiles in Cornelius' house received the Holy Spirit? See Acts 8:14-17; 19:5-7. How could this have helped Peter and his companions understand that the world of Gentiles could also be their world?