

## “...FOR THIS REASON HAVE YOU SENT FOR ME?”

By Keith Greer

“Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?” {Acts 10:29} An angel told Cornelius to send for Peter. Cornelius followed the angel’s instructions, and subsequently, Peter arrived at his home. Peter asked why Cornelius had sent for him – why he was there in Caesarea with Cornelius. Cornelius sending for Peter showed:

**One may be religious, but wrong.** “A devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.” {Acts 10:2} Cornelius was a religious person who did many commendable things. But look at what the angel said in verse 6: “He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.” There were some things he still needed to do! Even the Jews who were present on Pentecost to celebrate that special feast day were religious, but they were wrong about Christ. “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.” {Acts 2:22,23}

**Morality alone does not save.** “...Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you.” {Acts 10:22} This, too, shows Cornelius’ honorable character. Yet, character alone does not save us. We must be morally good to qualify as God’s children {Romans 12:1,2; 1 Timothy 5:22}; but morality is not the only criteria upon which that determination is made. We all have many friends and relatives who are good moral people but who, sadly, do not have a relationship with the Lord. Listen to His words on this subject: “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” {Matthew 7:21}

**Prayer does not put us in Christ’s body.** “...Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.” {Acts 10:4} Unfortunately, because Cornelius was not in God’s family, God was not obligated to him. Prayer is a spiritual blessing, and only those who are part of Christ’s body may address God as their Father {Matthew 6:8; Ephesians 1:3}. Long ago, we learned that God does not hear (answer) the sinner’s prayers (He hears the words, but does not answer) {John 9:31}. There are no passages that show one being saved by praying. The Bible teaches that we put on Christ in baptism {Galatians 3:26,27}. The so-called sinner’s prayer is a product of man’s teaching – not the truth in God’s word.

**Angels do not deliver salvation.** “About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, Cornelius!” {Acts 10:3} Yes, an angel did appear to Cornelius, but that appearance did not save him. We know this because the angel instructed Cornelius to send for Peter, who would tell him what he “must do.” Listen to Cornelius’ own words: “So I sent to you

immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God." {Acts 10:33} Cornelius understood that the angel's appearance had not saved him!

**Obedience is essential for salvation.** "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." {Acts 10:47,48} God has always required that alien sinners render obedience to His commands. So you see, the word is before you – have you obeyed? \*\*\*