

***BEING ACCEPTED & ASCENDING***

**Acts 10:27-35**

**Woodland Park Church of Christ**

**3 March 2019**



# BACKDROP

- On brink of God's fulfilling promise made to Abraham many centuries before . . .

*“By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you [Abraham] have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son . . . **In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice.”* Genesis 22:16, 18

# BACKDROP

- ▶ **Cornelius' work had been noticed by God.**
  - **Feared God with "all" his household;**
  - **Gave alms generously to the people;**
  - **Prayed to God always. Acts 10:2**
  - **Angel told him that his prayers and alms had come up for a memorial**

Yet Cornelius was undone (in an unacceptable state) before God. . .

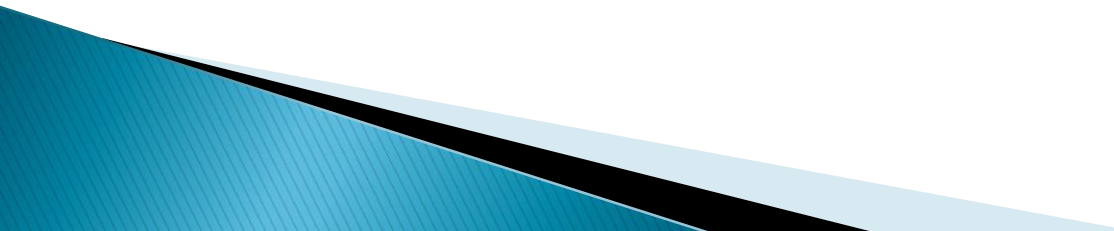
*”Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. **He will tell you what you must do.**”* Acts 10:6–7

# Please note . . .

- ▶ Our works alone won't cut it – grossly inadequate to get us into heaven. **Isa. 64:6**
- ▶ Faithful obedience has always been the ticket – dating all the way back to antediluvian days (the Great Flood & Noah's time).
- ▶ The midnight vision won't get the job done. The road to conversion leads through the word being preached. **Romans 10:10–14**

Cornelius' coming to Peter, demystifies his (Peter's) vision (Acts 10:9-17) --

*Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." Acts 10:34-35*

- ▶ God accepts everyone who does his blessed commands.
  - ▶ I am so happy about this.
  - ▶ God's acceptance of us is not dependent on someone else's opinion – a subjective assessment that may be laced with **bias, improper or impure motive, or unforgiving spirit!**
  - ▶ We don't have to be from the right side of town or from a lineage of royalty.
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# God's Message to Cain

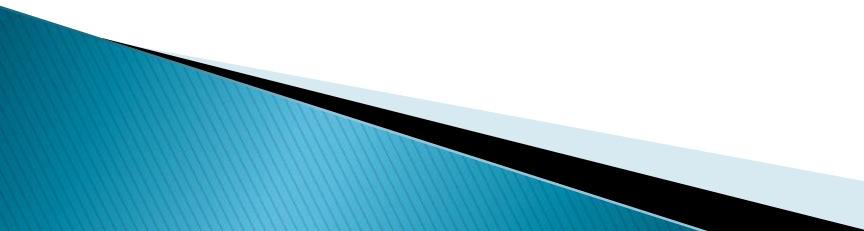
*And the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you so angry? And why do you look annoyed? **If you do well [believing Me and doing what is acceptable and pleasing to Me], will you not be accepted?** And if you do not do well [but ignore My instruction], sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you [to overpower you], but you must master it."*

Genesis 4:6–7 AMP



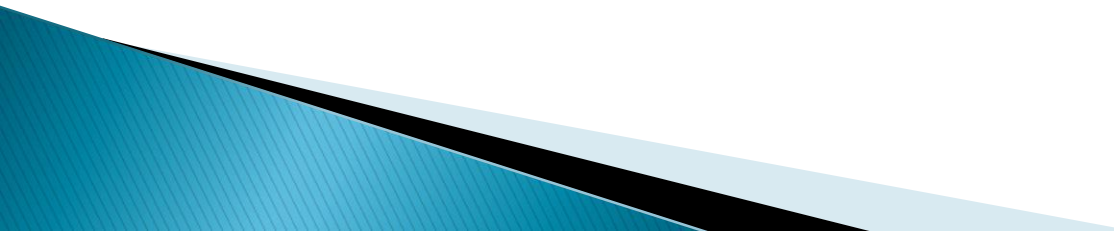
# The message in fairly layman terms –

If you want honor, recognition and advancement . . .

- ▶ Find out (learn) what you need to do;
  - ▶ Practice and perfect it;
  - ▶ Produce and perform at the appointed time (**i.e., BE OBEDIENT**).
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**Instead of subduing sin, Cain allowed sin to get the upper hand.**

*Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Genesis 4:8*

- ▶ Failure to do what we can or know to do **can put sin at our door** when we see others rising and flourishing.
    - Envy & jealousy
    - Hatred
    - Slander
    - Discontentment
    - Strife & division
  - ▶ Produces works of the flesh & does not yield fruit of the spirit! **See Galatians 5:19–23**
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Praise and notoriety come after we have endured and accomplished missions.

Not flippantly thrown about . . .

**Trophy generation beware . . .**

Everyone gets awarded a prize/  
medal.



- ▶ Creating an environment where excellence may be disincentivized.
  - ▶ Many times people want to be praised and exalted when their actions and performance haven't warranted it.
  - ▶ Many live entitled: **SIMPLY BECAUSE I'M HERE OR SHOW UP**, I should be esteemed and honored.
  - ▶ This attitude is rampant; it serves to stunt growth and real development.
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# Paul correcting the Corinthians' disorder at the Lord's supper . . .

*Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. . . .*

*What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? **Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.***

**I Corinthians 11:17, 22**

## Recall the parable of “The Talents” (Matthew 25:14–30)

- ▶ The Lord (Master) commended and rewarded the servants who were productive. Matthew 25:21, 23
  - “Well done, good and faithful servant...”
- ▶ The Lord (Master) was greatly displeased with the servant who returned what he was given – the single talent! Matthew 25:26
  - “You wicked and lazy servant . . .”





*Do you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 1 Corinthians 9:24*

**Receive God's word this morning!**

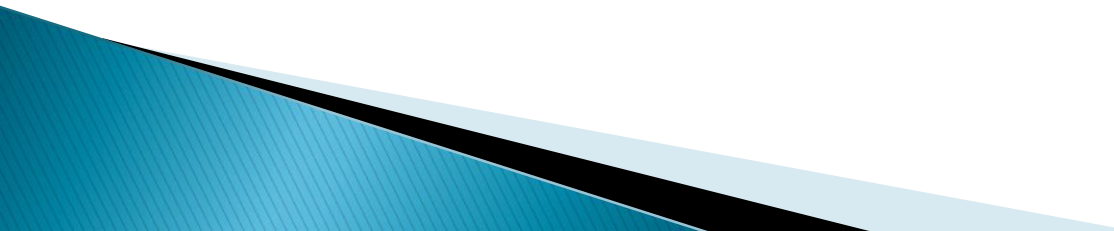
**Acts 2:41-42**



# Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- ▶ **Be added to the Lord's body**
  - Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7)
  - Believe (Acts 8:37, Acts 15:7)
  - Repent of sin (Acts 2:38)
  - Confess (Acts 8:37)
  - Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38); or

# Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- ▶ **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (1 John 1:8–9); or
  - ▶ **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).
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*May GOD'S richest blessings be yours!*