

Introduction- PEOPLE ARE WORRIED TODAY PRO AND CON ABOUT EARTHLY INTEGRATION* EAT, SCHOOL, LIVE, WORK!

1. I am far more concerned about my soul's eternal salvation, and God's blessing on my life.
2. I am mixed up racially, Scotch, Irish, & Choctaw Indian- born south of the tracks, & cotton patch
3. But there was a council that gave the official endorsement of the Church to my ancestors right to hear the Gospel, to be Baptized, and to be Christian without being Jewish Proselytes.

I.- THE CHARGE AGAINST PETER Acts 11:1-3 Peter broke with the segregation of Jewish Custom.

A. THE OCCASION* Acts 11:2- When Peter came to Jerusalem

1. The Story had preceded him- Gossip travels fast- some had a tale to tell about an apostle.
2. When Peter returned, perhaps sent for? he came to declare his side of the 1st great problem.
3. There was a contention- but having it out in the open of the church opened the way for solution

B. SOME WERE QUARRELSOME ABOUT IT- Acts 11:2b- Those of the circumcision contended with him.

1. It is good to have enemies- they keep you straight, there will always be differences of opinion
2. Paul faced problems from the same group- the Circumcision- and it precipitated more councils?
3. These had undergone a religious ritual, and wanted every person to follow them

C. THE PROBLEM WAS ON RITUAL* NOT ON DOCTRINE

1. Not on Peter preaching to the Gentiles- Matt 28:19- To every nation- settled the scope of the gospel.
2. The problem was his eating with Uncircumcised- Like Matt 23:23 they missed weightier matters.
3. The big problem was that he Baptized them without making them come by way of Judaism-ritual- Men build rituals, God looks on the heart! Perhaps we Baptists are anti-ritual?

II.- PETER'S DEFENCE* SALVATION, BAPTISM, HOLY SPIRIT, OFFERED TO ROMANS

A. THE FRANKNESS OF THE REPORT - NOT A TRIAL, BUT A COUNCIL AND A REPORT /the pulpit are wrong!

1. Some people today make the smallest church problem a Federal Case- Parliamentary Lawyers in
2. Peter's report was a lot like an expository sermon- started at beginning and went to end.
3. The important thing is that he reported what God did- and frankly what he did.

B. THE FULLNESS OF THE REPORT - ENOUGH TO HANG HIMSELF WITH THE LEGALIZERS

1. He told of the vision from God, and his opposition- 5-10, and God's rebuke 9b.
2. He told of the company he took with him, the leading of the spirit without doubting 11-14
3. He told of the results- God baptizing them with Holy Spirit as he spoke (Jews had to have

B. HIS QUESTION TO THE COUNCIL* "Could I withstand God?" /laying on of hands)

1. God spoke to Cornelius, to Peter, sent messengers to his house, arranged the whole thing.
2. God gave them the same gift as he did to the Jews who believed on the Lord-Holy Spirit.
3. Today- if we reject the Gospel- fail to accept Christ- we withstand God- fight against Him.
-- and if we fail to take the gospel to every soul- we withstand God- MISSIONS- home and world

III.- THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL* Acts 11:18 They agreed that God had done something

A. "THEY HELD THEIR PEACE" We hear a lot about "Peace" today- what does this mean

1. Peace with God- Rom 5:1 they already had this- comes from being redeemed- just. by faith.
2. Peace of God- Phil 4:7 Comes from accepting God's will- and this they did-
3. Peace on earth--Matt 10:34 These had no peace with world- nor will we until every soul

B. THEY GLORIFIED GOD* PRAISED HIM FOR HIS MIGHTY WORKS /is saved

1. They recognized that God created all things- (Acts 17:25,6) Not Peter- but God.
2. They saw God making no distinction of national origin in Salvation- Gal 3:28
3. This introduced a new brotherhood- those redeemed from both Jews and Gentiles = Saved ones.

C. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOD HAD GRANTED REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE TO THE GENTILES

1. Our great problem today is to believe what God has done, and to work His works- *Evolution instead of new way to mankind's desire to have His work for him*
2. Here they accepted that God granted repentance- in Acts 17:30 He commanded it.
3. If you have accepted God's call to repentance you are a part of Christian Brotherhood-

If you haven't- you are segregated from heaven- as one described in John 8:44

concl. THIS CHURCH COUNCIL GAVE YOU THE CHANCE TO DECIDE WHICH ONE YOU WILL BE * In- or out!

1. If you have done nothing- just been born- you are a sinner by nature, a child of wrath-satan!
2. God has opened His Love to you, to allow you to repent, accept Christ, and become joint Heir.
3. All the laws, powers, forces, on earth cannot force your acceptance in heaven
you can only come one way- Repent and believe!