

2020 NT Reading Plan

Living Hope Fellowship
Acts 10-16

Gentiles

This whole section emphasizes the church's expansion beyond Judea & Samaria to the Gentiles (the ends of the earth, see Acts 1:8). Beginning with Cornelius in chapter 10, to the first Gentile missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas (ch 13), to Paul's second missionary journey much further abroad (Acts 15:36-18:22), Gentiles are being saved and added to the church. This was groundbreaking on a societal level (see 10:28-29, 45; 11:1-3, 17-18).

1. It is doubtless that there were many cultures and ethnicities that these early evangelists encountered with a range of traditions and beliefs. What is the single method or tool the evangelists used to reach them for Christ?

Church Without Borders: Ethnic Unity

It is important to note that ethnicity was not *ultimately* a barrier to ministry and fellowship among the Christians. God added, day by day, those who were being saved to one church, with one Lord, one baptism, one message, one faith, one Spirit. Saved people both gave ministry and received ministry from people who were not like them culturally or ethnically. How much we need to see this unity displayed today!

2. Is there a group that you have avoided having fellowship in the church? Why? How does the gospel inform you on what to do about that?

Baptisms of Spirit & Water

Note how many times new converts are baptized upon hearing the gospel and believing.

3. How much do you suppose the early church/preachers were discussing baptism during evangelism? How important therefore is baptism? What needs to change in our church culture (go read Matthew 28:19-20)?

Word of God

God's Word is the instrument of conversion in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Acts is clear that the church grows where Christ is preached. Obviously, there was also opposition to the Word.

4. Can we expect people to become Christians apart from the hearing of the gospel? Can we expect Christians not to endure hardship when they teach or preach the gospel?

Jewish Opposition

Synagogues, in which there would be a mix of Jews and Gentile proselytes (converts to Judaism), are the epicenter of new gospel work in most of the cities. The Jews were given the privilege of hearing the message first (13:46) but were largely the source of the evangelist's greatest opposition, therefore the message was taken primarily to the Gentiles (13:47).

Christ-centered OT

The message of the church focused on Christ in the Scriptures, exegeted from the Old Testament, with the addition of new revelation inspired by the Holy Spirit (all of our New

Testament for example). Notice how Jesus was the theme of OT prophets (10:43; 13:33; 15:5-7).

The Law & Faith

The Law wasn't able to save and therefore its yoke is not to be forced on people. Rather, salvation has always been by faith. The Law was good and perfect but only designed to expose the sin of man, not to save him.

5. How many times can you find mentions of the Law (of Moses) in contrast to faith? T