

have been formed in them. But what a vast amount of work still remains to be done before this country is christianized! When people at home read of one hundred Christians being in a village or town they probably think that place must be well on towards being christianized. But when the peculiar state of Hindoo society is considered a clearer view will be gained. Suppose a large village of two thousand inhabitants. Nearly all those who live in the village proper are caste Hindoos, i.e. Brahmins, merchants, mechanics, farmers, &c., and some Mohammedans. Outside the village, at a short distance generally, but quite distinct from the village, is a collection of mean huts, occupied by the lowest of the low socially, serving, despise, poor, ignorant. Among these are the Christians. Thus it is in by far the greater number of villages, where there are Christians, all through this Ongole Mission field, and to a large extent throughout the country. We know that notwithstanding these apparently insurmountable disadvantages the leaven of truth will spread, and the higher classes will surely be influenced by it in time. We go on in hope, because we know that our Lord will draw men of all classes unto Himself. We are encouraged by the declaration of God's word that it is these very people, the poor, weak, and despised whom God has chosen. (1 Cor. i. 27, 28.)

I have now been here, living in tent, for a month, my time and attention occupied chiefly with building, for until we have a dwelling place here we can do but little. I have secured a fine plot of ground, of over eight acres, and am now erecting a building that will serve temporarily as a dwelling house, and afterwards will make a good school building when the permanent bungalow is put up. I hope to be able to bring my family here as soon as the worst of the heat is over, say in July, and settle down here permanently. The next building we will require is a house of worship, and then the permanent mission house.

QUESTION.—What do we learn about Cornelius? Vs. 1-8. What was God's known purpose? What question would arise? What had Israel done? What did the apostles need? How was it given? Vs. 9-20.

Vs. 30-33.—Who had sent for Peter? By whom? Who went with Peter? Cu. xi. 12. What took place as they came in? Vs. 25-27. How did Cornelius reply? Why was Peter selected to open the door to the Gentiles? (Matt. xvi. 19.)

Vs. 34-43.—What principles did Peter announce? Vs. 34, 35. What is meant by a "respecter of persons"? Who had established the distinction between Jews and Gentiles? Why? What solemn future event did he speak of? Where in the prophets is the witness named in vs. 45?

Vs. 44 (and 45-48).—Who had hitherto received this gift? how did Peter's companions feel? Why? What did Peter say? Vs. 47. What direction did he give? Vs. 48. With what body were Cornelius and his friends now united? Ch. ii. 47. What do we learn of the obligation to be baptized?

I like my station well. If it proves to be healthful, as I have every reason to expect, it will be a good place for effective work. It has one advantage; there is no European society, nothing to interfere with our time or our work. We can devote ourselves fully to that for which we came to this land.

Scripture Searchings.—Can you find in the New Testament an instance of a believer who did not receive baptism? What other centurions do we read of in the New Testament?

Peter here carries the keys to unlock the door of the gospel to the Gentiles (Matt. xvi. 9). Not in his own power, but as a servant of Jesus Christ (2 Pet. i. 1). Thus, Gentiles may come directly to Christ without passing through Judaism on the way.

NOTES.—Vs. 30, 31.—*Cornelius* was commander of the governor's bodyguard, which was composed of native Italians, as those that could be trusted near the ruler's person. He was devout, given to prayer and to the bestowing of alms, and one that instructed his children in the fear of God. See his preparation to send for Peter, in vs. 4-8. Also Peter's preparation to go to this Gentile, in vs. 9-23. The meeting of the apostle and the Roman centurion, vs. 25-29. Peter, having related to Cornelius how he was constrained to come to him, the latter, in turn, gives his experience. *I was fasting.* Omitted in the New Version. Yet it is likely that Cornelius mingled fasting with his prayer on the day to which he refers, from the morning until the ninth hour, or three o'clock. Though a devout man and full of good deeds, he was evidently praying for spiritual enlightenment, as one that was not yet informed how a man could be just before God. Such a prayer is speedily answered. Hence the man in bright clothing, or angel, who came to him with a message from God. *Thy prayer is heard;* as true prayer always is. His aims were had in remembrance in the sight of God, as an evidence of his sincerity in prayer. Yet not prayers and alms combined were sufficient as a ground of justification. He needed to know Christ.

Vs. 32, 33.—Cornelius was at Cesarea; Peter, at Joppa, some thirty miles below, on the coast of the Mediterranean, lodging with Simon a tanner, to whose house he went after raising Dorcas (ix. 43), and where he had the vision on the house-top. Cornelius says the angel told him to send for Peter, which he did immediately, promptness characterizing him both as a soldier and as an earnest seeker after the truth. *Thou hast well done.* An expression not only of approval, but also of gratitude. *We are all here.* The kinsmen and near friends (vs. 24). Before God. Not simply before Peter. All things. Not alone such things as suited their tastes, but all things that are commanded thee of God.

My health continues most excellent. Though for the last month the thermometer has been from 89 to 96 every day, yet the heat does not seem to have any effect on me.

But my letter is long enough, and so, with affectionate remembrances, I remain,

Yours faithfully,
W. B. BOGGS.

A WONDERFUL CHANGE.—Rev. W. E. Gifford, while pastor of M. E. Church, Bothwell, suffered from chronic dyspepsia so badly as to render life almost a burden. Three bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters cured him.

The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1883.

SECOND QUARTER.

Lesson VI.—MAY 6, 1883.

PETER PREACHING TO THE GENTILES.

Acts x. 30-44.

COMMIT TO MEMORY: Vs. 42-44.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"On the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit."—Acts x. 45.

DAILY HOME READINGS.

M. The Lesson, Acts x. 30-44.

T. Visions from God, Acts x. 1-23.

W. Arrival of Peter, Acts x. 23-33,

T. The Door Opened, Acts x. 44-48; xi. 1-18.

F. The Impartial Judge, Rom. ii. 1-16.

S. Salvation on Equal Terms, Rom. iii. 19-31.

S. The Middle Wall Broken Down, Eph. ii. 8-22.

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVEN TO THE GENTILES.

LESSON OUTLINE.—I. Peter's Arrival, Vss. 30-33. II. Peter's Preaching, Vss. 34-43. III. The Holy Spirit Received, Vs. 44 (and 45-48.)

QUESTIONS.—What do we learn about Cornelius? Vs. 1-8. What was God's known purpose? What question would arise? What had Israel done? What did the apostles need? How was it given? Vs. 9-20.

Vs. 30-33.—Who had sent for Peter? By whom? Who went with Peter? Cu. xi. 12. What took place as they came in? Vs. 25-27. How did Cornelius reply? Why was Peter selected to open the door to the Gentiles? (Matt. xvi. 19.)

Vs. 34-43.—What principles did Peter announce? Vs. 34, 35. What is meant by a "respecter of persons"? Who had established the distinction between Jews and Gentiles? Why? What solemn future event did he speak of? Where in the prophets is the witness named in vs. 45?

Vs. 44 (and 45-48).—Who had hitherto received this gift? how did Peter's companions feel? Why? What did Peter say? Vs. 47. What direction did he give? Vs. 48. With what body were Cornelius and his friends now united? Ch. ii. 47. What do we learn of the obligation to be baptized?

Scripture Searchings.—Can you find in the New Testament an instance of a believer who did not receive baptism? What other centurions do we read of in the New Testament?

Peter here carries the keys to unlock the door of the gospel to the Gentiles (Matt. xvi. 9). Not in his own power, but as a servant of Jesus Christ (2 Pet. i. 1). Thus, Gentiles may come directly to Christ without passing through Judaism on the way.

NOTES.—Vs. 30, 31.—*Cornelius* was commander of the governor's bodyguard, which was composed of native Italians, as those that could be trusted near the ruler's person. He was devout, given to prayer and to the bestowing of alms, and one that instructed his children in the fear of God. See his preparation to send for Peter, in vs. 4-8. Also Peter's preparation to go to this Gentile, in vs. 9-23. The meeting of the apostle and the Roman centurion, vs. 25-29. Peter, having related to Cornelius how he was constrained to come to him, the latter, in turn, gives his experience. *I was fasting.* Omitted in the New Version. Yet it is likely that Cornelius mingled fasting with his prayer on the day to which he refers, from the morning until the ninth hour, or three o'clock. Though a devout man and full of good deeds, he was evidently praying for spiritual enlightenment, as one that was not yet informed how a man could be just before God. Such a prayer is speedily answered. Hence the man in bright clothing, or angel, who came to him with a message from God. *Thy prayer is heard;* as true prayer always is. His aims were had in remembrance in the sight of God, as an evidence of his sincerity in prayer. Yet not prayers and alms combined were sufficient as a ground of justification. He needed to know Christ.

Vs. 32, 33.—Cornelius was at Cesarea; Peter, at Joppa, some thirty miles below, on the coast of the Mediterranean, lodging with Simon a tanner, to whose house he went after raising Dorcas (ix. 43), and where he had the vision on the house-top. Cornelius says the angel told him to send for Peter, which he did immediately, promptness characterizing him both as a soldier and as an earnest seeker after the truth. *Thou hast well done.* An expression not only of approval, but also of gratitude. *We are all here.* The kinsmen and near friends (vs. 24). Before God. Not simply before Peter. All things. Not alone such things as suited their tastes, but all things that are commanded thee of God.

Vs. 34, 35.—It is not wonderful that Peter gladly opened his mouth to speak to such a company of eager faces and anxious hearts. His opening words express surprise and pleasure, and present a great truth, both negatively and positively. *God is no respecter of persons (faces).* He doesn't judge men by outward appearance, or on the ground of national descent. This was no new truth. See Deut. x. 17; 1 Sam. xvi. 7.

But the spirit of Jewish exclusivism had prevented him from realizing it. God doesn't save man because he is a Jew, or rich, or learned. But the same Lord is rich unto all that call upon him. In every nation, he that feareth him, etc. Salvation is not a question of natural, but of spiritual birth. God doesn't always demand a perfect creed. *Fearing God* represents the laws of the first table; *working righteousness*, the laws of the second. *Is accepted with him.* Does this imply that righteousness is by the law? and that men may be saved by their works? By no means. Peter is stating the fact that the devoutness and right doing of a Gentile, as illustrated in Cornelius, are as acceptable to God as if he were a Jew. And the Gentile's yearning after God is fully recognized of the Lord, who sends his servant to him, as to a Jew, to bring him into the light. Cornelius must have the cross of Jesus, or Peter would not have sent to him.

Vs. 36-38.—The grammatical structure of these verses is peculiar. The thought seems to be that Cornelius and his Gentile friends were acquainted with certain things about the ministry of Jesus, which Peter recalls to them and emphasizes. They had a general knowledge of the fact that the Word of God was preached throughout Judea and Galilee to the children of Israel by Jesus Christ; that it was the message of peace or salvation; that Jesus was anointed of God with the *Holy Ghost and with power*; that being thus anointed, he went about doing good, performing miracles of healing, as well as teaching the people; and that *God was with him*. In a parenthesis, he guards his auditors against thinking of Jesus as only a prophet and teacher, solemnly asserting, *he is Lord of all.* And in the following verses, he goes on to explain more fully the nature and purpose of Christ's mission, and its bearing upon the way of salvation.

Vs. 39-41.—We are witnesses. Hence, fitted to give full explanation of the things concerning Christ, which this Gentile congregation had heard rumored. Of all things which he did. Hence, competent witnesses. Whom they slew. Compare iv. 10—whom ye crucified. Raised up. Peter is true to his mission as a witness of Christ's resurrection (ii. 22). Not to all the people. Paley says, "this is an announcement which no imposter would ever have made." It was not meet that Christ should appear, after his resurrection, to unbelievers. His work with them was done. The world had rejected him. It was only necessary that he should appear to chosen witnesses—enough to establish the fact of his resurrection. This he did, eating and drinking with them after he rose from the dead.

Vs. 42-44.—Commanded us. The apostles constantly kept the Great Commission in view. To preach . . . to testify. A double office—to herald or proclaim, and to be a witness. Unto the people. Not to the Jews alone, nor to any one favored class. He does not add here, "of Israel," as in iv. 10. The special point of their testimony was to be, that this crucified and risen Jesus was ordained of God, the Judge of the living and the dead. Not to be the Judge,—for he is already so; is making judgment up now, and will appear as Judge at the last day. To this give the prophets witness. The words which follow are not found in any one of the prophets, but they are the purport of their prophecies concerning Christ. See Isa. lxi. 11; xlii. 25; Zech. xiii. 1. Whosoever believeth, etc. Not even prayer and alms-giving can take the place of faith in Christ. While Peter yet spake, etc. A blessed interruption. Peter's sermon cut short by the Holy Spirit's demonstration, which endorsed his words. Thus, again, did the Spirit give witness to the truth of a full salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus.

SUGGESTED LESSONS.

Many a true seeker after salvation may be found in heathen lands, while a Christian country witnesses thousands who deliberately turn their backs on the light.

That was a delightful congregation to preach to, gathered in Cornelius' house. For they were there to hear all the truth.

There is no royal road to heaven. The righteous Cornelius needs the Lord Jesus, as his Saviour, as much as the persecuting Saul.

Help for Parents, or for the Teacher of the Primary Class.

Baptist Book and Tract Society, 104 GRANVILLE STREET, HALIFAX.

(Continued.)

Subscriptions paid to Capital fund: \$1,834 45

Barrington.—Mrs Irene Kendrick, 1; Martin Forbes, 4.

Stewiacke.—Miss L Pulsifer, 1; Miss Annie Pulsifer, 1; Miss Libbie Miller, 1.

Higrove, Digby.—S T Bacon, 1; Mrs S T Bacon, 1; Charles Aymar, 1; A W Parker, 1; Abraham Nichols, 1; John Nichols, 2; Mrs John Nichols, 1; John Gavil, 2; Mrs H Gavil, 1; Mrs Geo Roop, 1; Jas H Marshall, 1.

Blandford.—George Young, 10; Simeon Young, 1.

Halifax.—Mrs Murray, 5; Chas T Murray, 10 cts; Mrs Ainsley, 5; W T Francis, 2; Rev A MacArthur, 5; James Ross, 5; John F Crowe, 10; C H Whitman, 25; L S Payzant, 10; J W Blakely, 5; Cyrus Hubely, Junr., 25; W Davies, 5; Turner Blair, 10; James McIver, 10; J W Mason, 1; Mrs J W Mason, 1; A W Freeman, 25 cts; Ella M Murray, 5; Cyrus Hubely, 5; H N Paint, 5.

Halifax.—Mrs Thomas Offen, 5; Dr. Parker, 50; Silas Hubely, 1.

St Margaret's Bay.—Alvin Hubely, 1; Anthony Hubely, 1; Neal McDonald, 1; Elias Boutlier, 1; Ebenezer Hubely, 5; Elias Boutlier, 1.

Wolfville.—Rev Thos Higgins, 1; James Morse, 2; Rev S DeBlos, 1; Kinman Palmer, 2.

Gaspereau.—S B Anderson, 250; Andrew Coldwell, 5; Colin Martin, 2; J L Gertridge, 1; E A Davidson, 1; Oscar Reid, 1; Joseph S Reid, 1; Nathanael Benjamin, 1; Geo F Benjamin, 50 cts; Mrs W Benjamin, 1; Ross Coldwell, 1; Mrs E Coldwell, 1; Robert Scofield, 1; Thomas A Davidson, 1; Henry Caldwell, 1; D Bishop, 1.

Mahone Bay.—Mrs W S Masters, 2.

Port Hilford.—Capt John Keizer, 2; Capt James McConnell, 5; Capt William McConnell, 5; Gideon Flick, 2; Jas A Mills, 1; James Hewitt, 1; James L Hewitt, 1; Rev H Engles, 5.

Tancred Island.—Caleb Heisler, 5; Peter Mason, 2; Jacob Cross, 1; George Cross, 50 cts; Susannah Wilson, 1; Charles Cross, 2; Albert Pearl, 5; Gaspar Young, 1; George Slanahanwhite, 5; Henry Hott, 1; William Cross, 3; William Young, 1; Edward Baker, 50 cts; Mrs Slanahanwhite, 1; Amos N Hubely, 1; Uriah Young, 5; Albt Young, 2.

Oswego.—Daniel Blair, 5; James Morrison, 5.

Canard.—Rev S B Kempton, 10; Joshua Ellis, 5; C E Eaton, 25; Levi Eaton, 3; G H Franklin, 3; C E Beckwith, 2; J N Borden, 2, 50 cts; L E Borden, 1; Thos J Borden, 1; P M Brechin, 2; Thomas Kinsman, 1; Douglas W Power, 1; B Eaton, 5; Elisha Harris, 2; J E Eaton, 2; W E Eaton, 2; E R Illsley, 2, 50 cts; W E Eaton, 5; W E Eaton, 1; Otis Eaton, 1; J W Margeson, 2; Samuel Chapman, 1; John A Chipman, 3; John P Lyons, 5; A G Masters, 5; Allan Weston, 1; James E Harris, 2.

Canning.—S W Eaton, 2; James Sandford, 1; L C Woodworth, 5; Mrs L C Woodworth, 5; E M Beckwith, 5; R D G Harris, 1; North Harris, 1; William Meek, 1.

Pearl River.—Samuel McKeene, 1; Mrs Elijah Beach, 25 cts; Harris Newcomb, 1; G L Crocker, 1.

Baldwin.—W C Bill, 5; James Bligh, 5; J D G Dunham, 1; Isaac North, 1; A Friend, 1; Cha Rockwell, 1; Mr Morton, 1; Isaac S Tupper, 1; Mr John Keizer, 1; Mrs Rufus Sanford, 2; Henry Bill, 5; A Friend, 1; Charles Rand, 1; Freeman Reed, 1; Asel Rockwell, 1.

Cambridge.—Isaac Shaw, 10; Rupert Best, 50 cts; Absalom Brown, 1; Thos Cragg, 1; S E Condon, 1; Mrs S E Condon, 1; W S Rawding, 1; A E Rawding, 1; C V Rawding, 15; Mrs C V Rawding, 2; H R Rawdon, 1; William Collins, 50 cts; J H Rawdon, 1; William Collins, 50 cts; Mrs L Sweet, 50 cts; Mrs E C Eaton, 1; C W Corkum, 50 cts; E S Condon, 2; Abijah Pearson, 1; Theodorus Kinsman, 1; Clark Illsley, 4; Wilson Pearson, 1; Enoch Parker, 1; Owen H Parker, 1; John Caldwell, 1; R S Woodward, 50 cts; R A Webster, 50 cts; Mrs Asel Webster, 50 cts; W H Healey, 1; John Webster, 1; James E Dodge, 1; Mrs W H Healey, 50 cts.

Berwick.—Rev J C Blakeney, \$5; A Stanley Fisher, 5; Ainsley Chute, 1; Charles Norwood, 1; George W Sandford, 1; J B Chute, 1; Randall Illsley, 1; F A Clarke, 1; Mrs James Illsley, 4; John Power, 1; W H Skinner, 5; John W Skinner, 5; Jonathan Sanford, 1; Charles Skinner, 1; Mrs James A Kelly,