

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent – Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
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Lesson by – Deacon Jay Malone & Sis. Lottie Jackson
Tuesday -March 17,2026, Sunday- March 22,2026

Lesson 4

Unit 1: Fulfilling Our Obligations to Neighbors

Subject: Putting an End to Prejudice and Discrimination

Printed Passages: Acts 10:9-15, 30-35; Galatians 3:28-29

Key Verse

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28, KJV)

Introduction

In the earliest days, the Christian movement was rooted in Judaism. The first followers of Jesus were Jews who continued to attend the synagogue, adhered to dietary laws, and viewed themselves as a sect within the Jewish faith, rather than as founders of a new religion. Act 10 marks a significant turning point. Peter's vision of clean and unclean animal challenged his Jewish conviction about purity and separation. When the Holy Spirit led Peter to share the Gospel with the Gentiles Centurion Cornelius, Peter realized that God was opening the way of salvation beyond Israel. Later, God called Peter , a Jew, to lead the church's expansion beyond the Jewish community into the Gentile world. Paul declare that in Christ, the old divisions no longer define God's people," for you are all one in Christ Jesus ". God was calling the church to embrace Jew and Gentiles alike as heirs of the same promise.

Pointer 1 - God's Revelation Can Be Sudden *(Acts 10:9-15)

While Peter is praying on the rooftop, he falls into a trance and sees a vision of a large sheet descending from heave filled with " unclean" animals accompanied by a voice commanding him to kill and eat. Peter refused, citing the Jewish laws, but the voices declares, " what God has cleansed you must not call common. Peter is in Joppa staying at the home of Simon the Tanner. The Vision - a sheet lowered by four corners contains all manner of beasts, reptiles and birds, including those forbidden by Mosaic law (Leviticus)

The Command – a voice from heaven commands, "Rise Peter, Kill and Eat ".

The Conflict – Peter protests that he has never eaten anything " common or unclean". Common refers to often seen, or heard, or usual,(like squirrels are common) in the area.

The Message – the vision (repeated three times, before the sheet is taken back) referencing Peter's three denial of Jesus, is not primarily about dietary laws, but rather a symbolic revelation, that the gospel is meant for all people, and the Gentiles are not to be considered unclean.

Pointer 2 - God's Revelation Can be Startling *(Acts 10: 30-35)

Cornelius describes his angelic vision to Peter, explaining his obedience in summoning him. Peter realizes that God does not show partiality, declaring that for anyone in any nation, who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him, breaking down barriers between Jewish believers and Gentiles. Verses 30-33- Cornelius, Roman Centurion, tells Peter about the angel that instructed him to send for Peter to hear a message. He emphasizes that everyone is gathered to hear what God commanded.

The Revelation – Peter acknowledges that God is breaking down the separation between Jews and Gentiles. He states that God does not show favoritism (partiality) and that righteousness is not limited by nationality.

The message here is- this interaction signals that the gospel is for all people, as God accepts those from any nation, who reverence Him and act rightly. This passage marks a critical turning point in the early church, as Peter moves past Jewish exclusive dietary and social laws to welcome Gentiles into the faith.

Pointer 3- We Are One - *(Galatians 3:28-29)

The message here declares that faith in Christ Jesus spiritual distinctions based on race, social status, or gender, uniting all believers as one in Him. It concludes that belonging to Christ makes all believers equal, true heirs of Abraham's promise, regardless of their spiritual equality. In Christ, traditional divisions, Jews / Greeks / slaves / free, male, female are irrelevant to one's standing before God. All are "one" in Him, heirs of Promise believers in Christ, the true "offspring of Abraham", inheriting the promises made to him.

This verse serves as the final argument in the chapter, solidifying that the law was temporary, while the promise fulfilled through faith in Christ is final. Now that we belong to Christ, we are the true children of Abraham, his descendant, heirs according to the promise.