

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 21/05/2023

Text(s): Acts 10:22—35

Sermon Title: Loving God By Loving Our Religious Neighbour

Preachers: Bishop Dr Gordon Wong

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Acts 10:22–35 (NIV84)

22 The men replied, “We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say.”

23 Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along.

24 The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

25 As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence.

26 But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.”

27 Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.

28 He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.

29 So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”

30 Cornelius answered: “Four days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me

31 and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor.

32 Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’

33 So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism

35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. The preacher saw in John Wesley’s Aldersgate experience the conversion of a deeply religious person. Does anyone have a similar experience where you regularly attended church as a religious Christian without a close relationship with God until God warmly touched your heart?**

2. **The first Bible character the preacher focused on is Cornelius the centurion. He was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a devout and God-fearing man. What else do we know about this man so that we may gain some learning points for ourselves?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. **We read of Peter's spiritual encounter with God in Acts 10:9-16. What did the experience mean to Peter (what did he learn from it)? According to the preacher, what can we learn from Peter's experience as Christians today?**
2. **In view that God accepts all who fear Him and do what is right, whether Jews or Gentiles, what is the right response from Christians who have come to believe in the Lord Jesus as the Messiah and Saviour for us all? What do you think?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to have a heart for those who have not heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and to pray regularly for those who fear God but do not know Jesus personally.
- Pray for our life groups and our church to be effective in reaching out to those around us in works of evangelism and missions in order to reach those who truly fear God and want to know God personally.