Fear And Righteousness

Intro: Acts 10:34-35 “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” All Bible students will recognize this statement as a part of Peter’s sermons at the house of Cornelius. The Lord had commissioned His apostles to preach the gospel in all the world, but that preaching was to begin in Jerusalem with the Jews.

1. Luke 24:46-49 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48And ye are witnesses of these things. 49And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

2. Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

a. Acts 2 the gospel to the Jews.
b. Acts 8 the gospel in Judea and Samaria.
c. Acts 10 the gospel to the Gentiles.

I. “God Is No RespeCter Of Persons.”
A. Rom. 2:11 “For there is no respect of persons with God.”
B. These scriptures are often misunderstood for seemingly God is a respecter of persons.
1. The Old Testament abound in this fact.
a. Noah over the rest of the world at that time.
b. Abraham: when God made the promise with him and changed his name.
a. Does God not respect the Christian above the non-Christian?
b. Did He not respect the apostles above other Christians?
C. These scriptures must be interpreted in light of their context: salvation.
D. The next statement reiterates this idea.

II. “In Every Nation.”
A. This simply emphasizes the fact that God’s law transcends national boundaries.
B. The great commission embraced all nations but are we working to accomplish the Lord’s plan?

III. “He That Feareth Him.”
A. Psa. 111:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”
B. Pro. 1:7; 9:10 “The fear of the Lord {is} the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. 9 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”
C. Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
D. The word has a two-fold meaning.
1. Reverence, respect, awe, and praise. It is a respect that controls our lives.
2. To be afraid.
a. Ecc. 12:13-14 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.”
b. Heb. 12:28-29 “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29For our God is a consuming fire.”
c. Mat. 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
d. Heb. 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

IV. “AND WORKETH RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

A. Righteousness.
1. Psa. 119:172 “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”
2. Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

B. Worketh.
1. 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
2. Obedience to God’s commands.

Conclusion: “is accepted with Him.” Our chief aim, for before Him we must stand in judgment; Rom. 14:10 “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”