

"An Epic Inclusion"

Acts 10:44-11:18

Introduction: The word "**epic**" in one sense means, "*particularly impressive or remarkable*." The incarnation of God. The crucifixion of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus. The ascension of Jesus. Pentecost. These few moments in Christian history are EPIC! The text before us this morning could easily be considered epic. Why? This text exposes and explains the **inclusion** of Gentiles into the fellowship of the Christian community.

Three Key Ideas to Consider:

1). The Gentiles Received the Gift of the Holy Spirit (10:45).

- Those (Jewish Christians) with Peter were **AMAZED** (v. 45).
- The gift of the **Holy** Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles (v. 45). How could this be? To Gentiles?
- Evidence: speaking in tongues and extolling God (v. 46).
- These Gentiles were **baptized** (v. 48).

Application:

2). The Gentiles Received the Word of God (11:1).

- A Gentile was anyone who was **not** a Jew.
- Most Jewish believers thought that God offered salvation only to **Jews** because God had given His law to them (**Exodus 19; 20**).
- The Gentiles were open to the Scriptures, specifically to the **gospel** of Jesus Christ.
- Look at v. 2-3. This is jarring. The believers were shocked that Peter had **eaten** with Gentiles.
- This was a blatant **breach** of custom. How could Jesus be equally Lord of Gentile believers?
- Peter launches into a plausible, **truthful** explanation (v. 4-17).

Application:

3). The Gentiles Received Repentance That Leads to Life (v. 11:17-18).

- Look closely at verse 17. "Who am I to stand in God's way?" WHAT A QUESTION!!
- Verse 18- The response... "And they glorified God..."
- VERY IMPORTANT, DON'T MISS: "Then to the Gentiles **ALSO** God has granted **repentance** that leads to life" (v. 18).
- An **EPIC** turning point in the adjusted understanding of God's **grace**!

Application: Do you want to have a right standing with God? You must repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus. God's offer of salvation is freely extended to all.