

Acts 10:34-48 The gospel breaks down walls and makes peace.

INTRO

Not recommended, but no doubt, if you were among a group of people within your community...it **wouldn't even need to be a diverse group necessarily**, but different individuals gathered together;.. and you brought up the topic of **Home Land Security**...specifically - **border control between the United States and Mexico**...chances are..the **conversations would begin to heat up** some and even become **hostile**. For it is **certainly a topic of division** in our **day and age**...a **division that many don't take likely**. **People** can become very worked up about it. And It's **not a new topic of controversy**. Mankind has a history of placing up walls that bring division..**separation between one another**. **Walls are constructed for protection and control** *bottom line right?*... The WALL between **America and Mexico** being **fortified and increased** in SIZE is the **most current example**. While **The Great Wall of China** and the **Berlin Wall** remind us of efforts of great magnitude in the past put forth for similar reasons. **This was common in Ancient biblical times as well**. Walls constructed around the city perimeter for protection against outlying enemies and even wild beasts... **Wasn't it Nehemiah who returned to Jerusalem and lead the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem?** The **rebuilding of the Temple was complete** BUT it didn't have the **fortified** walls around the city to protect it from hostile invaders of which they had even while the wall was under construction. (**Nehemiah 4:17**) Remember, they **had one hand at work on the wall and the other holding onto their weapon**. These **physicals walls** CAN and DO serve a helpful and necessary purpose in our fallen world..BUT it **also does create a clear division between those who are** on **opposing sides**...a **division that stirs controversy** and even **hostility** between them. I believe everyone would agree that it would be wonderful if they weren't at all needed. No need to build one and for all existing ones to be torn down as portrayed **wonderfully** in the **New Jerusalem** we are awaiting. It's **peoples of all nations** that **surround** the Jerusalem..NOT a **physical wall surrounding it that's guarded**. Walls are absent in the **New Jerusalem**. **But as long as sin is rampant in this world, they will exist**....whether they be **GREAT** in **size and magnitude** or **smaller scale like locked gates** and fences around neighborhoods and places of work for protection. THEY EXIST. Today though, we see a **Wall destroyed**. A **wall that is** very **LARGE** and **fortified** and **metaphorical** in existence. **Perhaps no greater of walls** is the "**Wall of Hostility**" that **existed between the Jews** and the **Gentiles**. (**Ephesians 2:14**).

The gospel however, breaks down this wall and makes peace.

We see this begin with a **Bewildered breakthrough**. In **verses 34 & 35** of **Acts** chapter **10** this morning.

BODY

- **Bewildered breakthrough.** (Acts 10:34-35)

Before we go there however, it will be **helpful to understand** (re-emphasize from last Sunday's teaching) The **extent of this Wall of Hostility**. You SEE, In **biblical times**, there were **two types of people**. **Circumcised** and **Uncircumcised**. **Jew** and **Gentile**. **People were either in one or the other category**. AND these two categories were birthed when God chose the pagan Abram to make **the Nation Israel** from. There was no Jew before God called Abraham. God simply **chose** ABRAM to **work through...** **His great work of Redemption**. He called out the **pagan Abram**,...it could have been anyone but it **was Abram** whom **God chose** (changed his name to Abraham) and **called him out to make a covenant with** that **through him..through Abraham, God would mediate a divine blessing TO ALL the families of the earth**. Through **Abraham** God made a **great nation..The Nation Israel.... It was through the Nation Israel that the oracles of God came**. **No other people** had GOD both **visited** and **worked through** as **He did through** the **Nation Israel**. Paul stated it this way (**Romans 3:1-2**) speaking of the Jews he says... "Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision. Much in every way. To begin with Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God."

To begin with....It's like this... "God descended from on High and spoke with His people here on earth." 'Any other people....any other nation on the face of the earth have that in their genealogy?' 'I don't think so!' **Begin there....and then add** the **countless powerful mighty works of God For His People**.

Judgements of plagues on **Egypt**, the **dividing** of the **Red Sea**, **Fire** by **night** and **Cloud** by **day** to **guide and protect them**, **nourished well** by **Manna from heaven** - **showed up ever morning like frost.**, **flowing water** from a **Rock** in the **middle of a desert place**, **shoes** and **clothes** that **lasted 40yrs** (Whats the oldest garment in your closet? *I have some old ones remaining..but no half shirts that say RAD across the chest from when I was 8....*) Their **clothes** and **shoes** NEVER **wore out** - **that's amazing!**. The **annihilation** of their **enemies** whom **they were always out number by**...and **not by a little**. **God would wipe them OUT**.

God would meet with His people through the ordinances given by Him...He would meet with His people in the **tent of meeting**. **God's presence was known among His people and in a mighty sense....experientially**. **No other**

people could TOUCH that in their record books. All their gods (*little g*) were fashioned by their own hands and did nothing. They were lifeless, worthless IDOLS. The God of Israel worked many miraculous deeds time and time again...even in Israel's faithlessness and breaking covenant with Him...He remained faithful and steadfast...disciplined and judged them...YES, but never broke covenant with them...for His name's sake. No other god even came into a category of comparison with the God of Israel. And this marked distinction between Israel and all other people types...ran DEEP.

The relationships between this dividing wall of hostility varied *some*. There were those who in (Deuteronomy 4:5-8) refers to saying THAT after witnessing these people of God and hearing of His statutes...they would say "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." This would be said about the nation Israel by outsiders ... "For what great nation is there, (Moses expounds on about this in Deuteronomy) that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?"

Moses says...So very true. And these AWED residents,...

sojourners...'Gentiles'...witnessing this people whom their God is among...

often times then would voluntarily convert to Judaism...become a proselyte and give themselves to come under the Old Covenant. Uriah the Hittite and Rahab the prostitute are just a couple examples of these many Gentile converts found in scripture. God's law addresses it explicitly in (Exodus 12:48) it says "If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; - then *he may come near* - he shall be as a native of the land. But NO uncircumcised person shall eat of it."

Very - explicit. The Gentile is NOT to come near...NOT to be identified with God's covenant people..., they *could* voluntarily forsake their way of life and give themselves TO BE identified as one of them which included becoming circumcised..the outward sign of the covenant. But outside of that they were uncircumcised...'Gentiles'...outside of the OLD Testament covenant and therefore there existed...IF not a conversion, then predominantly a hostility between them. A "dividing wall of Hostility" as described in (Ephesians 2:14). The Jews were not to associate with them. It was unlawful for them to do so. (Acts 10:28)

We get a taste of this in an interaction Jesus had with a Canaanite woman. (Matthew 15:22-28) A Gentile woman who wouldn't stop crying out to Him for Help to heal her demon possessed daughter...His disciples were begging him to send her away for she was relentless in her pursuit of you

Lord...They were fed up her crying out to Jesus. BUT **HE** didn't send her away...**instead** he addresses her this way, LISTEN -..."I was sent **only** to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ...**only** to the lost **sheep** of the house of Israel....NOT to the '**Gentiles**' of which she was. YET she **persisted**. She **wasn't deterred but rather came to him** and **knelt before him** "...saying, 'Lord, help me.'" Her **whole heart is in this**..and JESUS going **after the heart then says**... "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." **To which she doesn't argue with his statement but responds** "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 'YES Lord!?...She **doesn't even flinch** to being **referred to as a dog**. WHY IS THAT? It's because '**Dog**' - was a **commonly used term by the Jews in reference to 'Gentiles'**. She **doesn't miss a beat being familiar with that TERM**. **She agrees with what he says to her** and she **makes clear**...that though she is a dog - a **Gentile** - she looks to Him as her master...HER GOD. "even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from...their..**not the...but their masters' table**. I **may be a dog** JESUS...but I'm **your dog..I belong to you**. AND Jesus, **moved by her words of faith** says. "O woman, great is your faith!... Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly." **DOG - Gentile** Paints a picture **doesn't it**, of this "**Wall of Hostility**" that **existed** between **Jews** and **Gentiles**. **Gentile** and **Dog** - **equivalent in the Jew's mind**.

A fortified "**Wall of Hostility**" between **JEW**S and **Gentiles** existed? **And despite** God's word saying plainly in several passages that "a people who did not know Him"..**He would bring in to be His people..(Hosea 2:23, Joel 2:28-32, Isaiah 65:1; 66:19; 19:25, Deuteronomy 32:21, Micah 4:1; 5:7 as a few references)**. **Despite Jesus's commission prior to His ascension (Acts 1:8) saying** that "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the **end of the earth**." **DESPITE** that **being clearly communicated**...That **ALL Nations** will be **blessed through the Nation Israel**...**Emphatically clear in God's word**...there **existed not only** this **wall of hostility** BUT also **this seeming unclarity to the apostles**. **They've been bearing witness** in **Jerusalem..God is saving people...the same in Samaria..evidenced powerfully** BY the **Holy Spirit falling upon them...but the Gentiles?**...GOD put a lot of stock in preparing **Peter** for him to **follow men to Cornelius's house**. **Just a couple Christ** following **Jews** came from Joppa urging him to go to Lydda to see **Tabitha** whom they were mourning over..**remember that?**... and he **didn't hesitate..he rose and went..a days journey**....BUT **go to some Gentiles?** A vision that played three times over was necessary to communicate to Peter that he was to follow these **Gentile men**. **And even then he was perplexed** by it. **Bewildered** and **pondering** it. **But... obedient**. **Clarity is**

coming into view though of his **own** words **spoken** quoting from the **prophet Joel** back in (**Acts 2:17-21**) PETER quoting the prophet "...that God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh...And it shall come to pass that **everyone** who **calls** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." **He quoted that during his preaching** on the **day of Pentecost**. **Doesn't seem to have fully synapsed in his heart and mind yet....**BUT **he is obedient** and **clarity** is **coming into view**.

He's had a two day journey with these **men sent by Cornelius**..time has been spent with them... **He hears first hand** of the account from Cornelius of how he was visited by the Lord and told by the Lord to call for Peter to come to him. **He enters a Cornelius's house** which is filled with Gentiles who are excited to see Peter...**shocking that must have been...RIGHT?** A house full of Gentiles who are excited to see him and eager right along with Cornelius to **hear** what Peter would have to share. **Men** who he has **both heard** and **observed** as being **God fearing MEN**. **Are you able to picture that scene with me?** Immerse yourself in that moment. **This usual wall of hostility IS - broken through**. **Peter is clear in rightly thinking now while very much in uncharted waters...unfamiliar territory**. **It's here** in this moment of **Bewildered Breakthrough** he **responds to Cornelius** asking him to speak what the Lord commanded him to speak. **Peter in (verse 34) before all gathered with listening ear...."Opens his mouth..."** **Let's not miss that... Stop there...** **Have you ever found yourself in similar waters?** A **Bewildered Breakthrough moment**. In **conversation, interaction** with SOMEBODY...maybe a MULTITUDE OF people and then BAM! A **platform is given to bear witness**. **You might have thought before..** "I never imagined I'd have ready ears to hear me share Christ. Simply never saw it come to pass. The wall was **too** big and fortified...impermeable in my mind."

But now...the **wall is broken through** and **you find yourself clearly presented with an opportunity to bear witness to Christ**. **Learn from Peter - verse 34** "He opens his mouth...." **Seize the moment christian...don't miss it**. **As Bewildered** as you may be...BE **obedient** and **testify** as **Peter** did and follow his **example in how he begins**. He **begins** by identifying common ground they all stand on. Picking up in **verse 34** through **35**... "Truly...Peter says...Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

Common ground - Christian...establish this when bearing witness. **Aim to establish this common ground** as you **lead into sharing Christ** with a **non-believer**.

Multitudes of **non-spoken**, Fortified, **Metaphorical** walls exist between us. **Ones** we put up and **walls** OTHERS place up for us. We are all **SINNERS** and in

desperate need of the grace of God through Jesus Christ **each** and **every** day. **Common ground** is SO important. Find common ground of which you can both agree on. NOT compromising Biblical convictions....not that...hold firm to **truth** while seeking **common ground** of which **you both** can agree on. From there, **purposefully direct** the **conversation** to the **cross of Jesus Christ**. **Bear Witness** to the **HOPE of God in Jesus Christ**. **This is what Peter does**. Bewildered,...**Walls broken through**,...A **Platform is given to open his mouth**....**standing on common ground**... He **Bears Witness** to the **good news of Peace** through Jesus Christ...in (**verses 36-43**) of our text this morning.

- **Bearing witness** to the good news of **peace** through **Jesus Christ** (**Acts 10:36-43**).

The same core message is spoken to all in Jerusalem by Peter on the day of Pentecost in **Acts chapter 2**. Which is **Over 3x the length** as recorded in **scripture** BUT in **essence the same core message**. The message of **peace through Jesus Christ**. Whether **JEW or GENTILE, Caucasian or Black, Indian or Asian**...whatever racial make up you are...whatever social status you are placed in...great material wealth or poverty...WE ALL need the **same message**. The message of "**Peace through Jesus Christ... (he is Lord of all)**". When a platform is giving to **Bear witness**...as **Peter** does...**Bear witness to the good news of Peace** through **Jesus Christ**...GET to the **cross**. Let's read this message as given by Peter in **verses 36-42** - read -

The GOSPEL message of **Peace** through Jesus Christ "**that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name**." The wall has been broken through...the VEIL has **been torn**. NO longer are temple sacrifices required to atone for sin as done under the Old Covenant of which the **Gentiles as a whole were far removed from**..BUT **now through Christ** the promise is not just for the children of Israel BUT "**.....for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself**." (**Acts 2:39**) It's **exclusively through Christ**... through His name and only His name can one receive forgiveness of sins and it's for **everyone**...ALL people types whom the Lord our God calls to Himself... PETER spoke **these very words on the day of Pentecost to an audience of Jews** gathered in **Jerusalem** from all over the world.

PETER now, speaking the same core message to the **upright, well spoken of, God fearing man Cornelius** and ALL his **relatives and close friends** gathered in his house...ALL **Gentiles**....Peter, **establishing common ground** with them... upon **his statement** in **verse 35** "**Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him**." With that **common ground** Peter **acknowledges before them of how they know about the fame of Jesus throughout all Judea**...and how

he was crucified... BUT then he testifies how on the 3rd day he rose again from the grave and showed himself to the apostles to bear witness to His resurrection...and that He (JESUS) “commanded them to preach that He (Jesus) is the appointed one of God to judge the living and the dead.” “He is Lord of all.” It is what ALL the prophets...ALL the writings of scripture bear witness about that “everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sin through His name.” Forgiveness of sin - how sweet the sound. To receive forgiveness of sin. To have peace where there once was great burden and dread of condemnation. The weight of guilt crushing our soul and having no HOPE of relent. Absolutely helplessness to change our station...to remove the curse upon us because of sin..breaking God’s commandments... IN MISERY, chained to it, judgment awaiting, UNABLE to escape...to then, to then....having those chains BURST apart...ushering us into peace where before was only the dread of condemnation before a Holy God. How sweet the sound. Forgiveness of sin.

JESUS is our peace. No one can have peace with God without Jesus. No one. No matter how convincing their self deception is of claiming peace apart from Christ. It’s not true peace. NO ONE can know and worship GOD without first having peace with Him through Jesus. As long as sin remains unforgiven, WE are not at peace with God and THEREFORE not true worshipers of God. God HATES sin. God is Holy and must judge sin. Nothing unholy can be in the presence of God and live. We are all sinners and therefore do not have peace with God...but rather His wrath abides on us. It doesn’t matter how PIOUS and devoted ONE is to what they believe of God...not at all. It gains no standing before a Holy God who is a consuming fire. No matter how well spoken one is of their fear of God, their generosity, their devoted prayer life even. Those are all wonderful virtues...but if it’s NOT through Christ...then you do not have peace with God..PERIOD. One MUST have forgiveness of sins to have peace with God. And only THOSE who Believe in Him (him Jesus) receives forgiveness of sins.

“Cornelius” Peter is saying in effect “... ‘this God in whom you fear... Believe that this same very God is He who anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with Power. Believe that this God in whom you fear was with him...with JESUS who did good wherever he went and healed all who were oppressed by the devil. Believe that this Jesus was put to death on a tree...was crucified dead and buried. Believe that God ‘in whom you fear Cornelius’...this God raised him from the dead on the 3rd day and made him appear to all God had chosen as witnesses who not only saw the resurrected Lord but ate and drank with him. He wasn’t a ghost. He who was dead..once a corpse is now risen. I saw him Cornelius, I shared meals with him after He rose from the grave. Cornelius,

Believe JESUS is THE ONE **appointed** by God...THE ONE....to be judge of the living and the dead as he **commanded** us to PREACH and **testify** to. ALL **according** to the **fulfillment of scripture**.

BELIEVE in Him...the judge of the living and the dead....Lord of all and **throughout all time**....**everyone** will **stand before him** and GIVE an **account**... HE is the **Judge** capital 'J' (**John 5:22**) GOD the Father has given all judgement to His Son..... (**Philippians 2:9-10**) This Jesus "...God has highly exalted and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."....**believe** in **Him** and YOU WILL **receive** forgiveness of sins through His name... the **blessed** name...the **name of Jesus**. - *Forgiveness Cornelius*. In all of **Cornelius's** godly virtues...he was **STILL unforgiven**. The **weight of guilt** remained heavy upon him. Judgement for **His sin** was **STILL heavily** upon him. **Nothing of what he was** well **spoken** of by the Jewish nation **lightened that condemnation**. SIN remained **unforgiven**. He **needed** to HEAR the good news of peace with God through Jesus Christ.

Christian - When a **wall breaks down**....**that's the message** we are to open our mouths and speak. The **gospel message**...the **good news of Jesus Christ** that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sin through His name...(1 **Timothy 2:5-6a**). "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..". "...who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, (securing an eternal redemption..atoning once and for all for sin) ...it's his blood shed on the cross that purifies our conscience from dead works to serve the living God." (**Hebrews 9:12-15**). In HIM only is **forgiveness of sin received**. **Peter** shares this wonderful word with **Cornelius**... and all gathered in his house...the **same word** WE are to share...**same word** many of us here have received... "you can be **FORGIVEN** of all your sins."

This is the message that **Peter** speaks to these **Gentiles**. *In essence*, the same core message he preached on the day of Pentecost to an audience of Jews. **Now**, I want to **draw our attention to** a **slight difference** in the order of the **OUTCOME**....and **that**, the **outcome, being: Belief and Baptism result**

- **Belief and Baptism result.**

Let's first look at the response from the account in **Acts** chapter 2 seen in **verses 37-41**. - *turn if you'd like*.

(37) "Now when they heard this (the **gospel message** just preached by Peter) when they heard this they were cut to the heart, (Great **conviction of sin** **seizes**

their heart), and they said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?... (a **desperate cry** having *become aware of their need for help*) “**what shall we do?!**” (38) and Peter said to them “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for...the **forgiveness of sins** (sound familiar?)...and you will receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit. (39) For the **promise** is for you and for your children and for ...ALL who are **far off, everyone** whom the Lord calls to **himself.**” (40) And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked generation. (41) So those who **received his word** were **baptized**, and there were **added** that day about three thousand souls.”

Now jump ahead to where Peter is in our text this morning. (Acts 10:44-48) It's been well over 3 years since that day he Preached on the day of Pentecost and HE is **currently in uncharted waters...unfamiliar territory...a bewildered breakthrough moment** has happened. This long existing wall of hostility has been **removed, common ground is stood upon** and he is **opening his mouth with the same message... Bearing witness** to the good news of **peace** through Jesus Christ...and he **gets interrupted by the Holy Spirit...he has not even finished speaking** and **The Holy Spirit falls on all who heard the word. Look** at the **last 4 verses** of our **text this morning (44-48)**. - read - **Sort of a reverse order outcome isn't it? Same outcome...backwards order from one another.** The FIRST TIME - **conviction of heart...desperate cry out asking what they needed to do** which **led to following** Peter's answer to **Repent and Be Baptized** everyone one of you and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.....**TO now**, ...before the Gentiles,...while in the process of bearing witness to them the Holy Spirit falls on them with clearly manifested outward signs solidifying their inclusion in the new covenant in the blood of Christ... **Guaranteeing their inheritance in Christ's Kingdom.... Astonishing all the Jewish brothers in Christ of who came with Peter (Acts 10:23)....who himself - Peter, witnessing this taking place along with them,** says “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people...” :-). “Can anyone?...**these people...not quite able to articulate the word brothers or born again christian YET is he? ...He's like..** “I didn't even finish speaking and The Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did with us. God is clearly present and affirming their inclusion into the new Covenant in Christ. Even if we did attempt to withhold water for baptism I'm afraid to think what mighty work God might do so that they - WOULD be baptized. The wall of Hostility is down..it's removed...pulverized...abolished. Let's baptize these new gentile converts 'these people' into the FAITH as our Lord commanded us to. In obedience to Him, let's affirm them along with God, **who already has,** that they, along with us, by believing in Jesus have received forgiveness of sins.”

A CRAZY scene to imagine. Certainly different in their eyes from what has been the pattern....but NOT in Gods....not in God's eyes... You see God looks upon the heart. In (1Chronicles 28:9)

King David prays this over his son Solomon who would reign in his place after he died..he prays....“And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. IF you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.”

Now there is a precious promise to HOLD near. “Cornelius was an upright, devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.” (Acts 10:1-2; 10:22). That's a healthy stack of virtues. I TIP my hat to that along with all the Jewish nation who spoke well of him...(Acts 10:22).... but he still needed Christ. He still, along with his whole household, needed Christ. As stacked as that was...as commendable as it was..HE and HIS household still needed the GOSPEL..they still needed to hear the good news of Peace with God through Jesus Christ. And I believe we see an example of the fulfillment of God's promise in David's prayer that “If you seek him...if you are truly seeking God with your whole heart...He who looks upon the heart WILL GO...HE WILL GO to the ends of the earth and BEYOND so that He will be found by you. What...a...promise. Cornelius's heart in seeking God is sincere I believe. He knelt before PETER... having YET to hear the message of Christ. He is confused BUT his heart is in it. I believe that is clear. Much like the Canaanite woman who knelt before Jesus...she is ALL in...she is ALL heart..pleased to receive crumbs that fell from her masters' table...Cornelius likewise sought the Lord with his whole heart. His heart was set on seeking God. And God fulfilling His promise to be found by those who seek him with such a heart takes great lengths in bringing the gospel message to him for there is no peace with God...NO forgiveness of SINS apart from Jesus Christ. Only in believing in Him will one receive forgiveness of sins in His name. And everyone from ALL Nations whom the Lord God calls to himself....will hear the gospel message.

This is God's promise. Anyone, seeking God with their whole heart whom He has called to himself will be saved. They will hear and respond to the gospel message...the message of Christ. How can this not motivate evangelism? The gospel breaks down walls and brings PEACE. Who doesn't need this message? I STILL need this message! Who isn't longing for peace in their souls? Who isn't in need of forgiveness? NO ONE. (Romans 3:23) “For we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Psalm 53:3) “There is no one

who does good, not even one.” There is NO **greater** message IN ALL the world than **this message** SAINTS...the **gospel message** of peace with God through Jesus Christ. **JESUS breaks through** the WALLS of OUR **prison cell**. **Imprisoned to sin**. It is HE who **sets us free** to receive forgiveness of our sins... **enabling us to be reconciled to God**. **Freeing** us from the **weight of condemnation that crushes us**. **He took it upon himself**. **Being set free, as His ambassadors now, WE have been entrusted with the same message...the sweet message** of forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. **It’s his same arms that were spread wide on the cross that purchased our forgiveness those same arms are NOW opened up to those who believe in Him TO receive forgiveness of sins.**

CONCLUISON

Church, we have a supreme message to share. THE GOSPEL MESSAGE. **A word sent to us by God, whereby we believed and a word that will reach every corner of the face of the earth.** Working with God then, **ask Him for bewildered breakthrough moments to share the same word... and be ready...Ask ‘believing’ and be ready for those break through moments...establish common ground and purpose in your heart to open your mouth when those opportunities are granted to bear witness to share Christ,...bear witness to peace with God through Jesus Christ. We can be FORGIVEN. We interact with people every week.** The GOSPEL breaks down **walls of hostility** and brings PEACE. **Walls we have within ourselves even...strong holds YET to be overcome,...walls of hostility between one another in the household of faith that NEED to be pulverized.** And **walls between us and a lost and dying world.**
Walls the gospel is able to break down and bring peace to.

COMMUNION

JESUS, is our peace. It’s through his sacrifice whereby we may have peace with God the Father. **Jesus laid down his life as a ransom for many.** It’s **only through his sacrificial death on the cross that sin is atoned for..past, present and future.** WE come to our time this morning **where THAT sacrifice is proclaimed through the partaking of communion.** A **partaking for the believer ONLY. Those who believe in Him FOR salvation and have received forgiveness of sins through Him name.** **The believer partakes of the bread which represents his body that was broken and of the cup representing his blood that was shed for the forgiveness of sins.** The elements of communion are prepared. **As directed by His gracious Spirit indwelling you, you are welcomed to come believer...come and proclaim His death till he returns.**

BENEDICTION - Ephesians 2, Romans 10?

Family

Table Talk



August 26, 2018

Family Discussion

1. Time to construct a wall. Using either building blocks, dominos, playing cards or anything that is stackable, construct a wall as high as you can. Now, find a small object to represent someone bringing the gospel message. Have the herald of the gospel message approach the wall and take out one of the bottom blocks and watch the wall crumble. Reconstruct the wall and let each herald in the group have a turn.
2. What sort of walls (non physical) can be present between people that bring division? Examples: Differences in culture, interests, preferences; Competition in school, sports, workplace, between siblings or peers. Others?
3. The gospel message levels all playing fields. Everyone is a sinner and in need of a savior. Only by believing in Jesus can one receive forgiveness of sins through His name. How can this truth bring down walls that bring division?
4. A herald of the gospel also lives it out as one being transformed by the gospel. Read the passages below and discover God's word instructing His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) in how our gospel adorning conduct can break down walls.

GOD'S TRUTH

The gospel breaks down walls and brings peace!

Key Verse

"To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him (Jesus) receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Acts 10:43 (ESV)

TABLE READING

Lead your kids into God's Word...

3. Read Romans 3:23, Psalm 53:3, Romans 1:18 and Romans 10:11-13 to see God's word level the playing field.
4. Romans 12:9-21; Ephesians 4:32; 5:21; 1Thessalonians 5:11-18; 1 Peter 1:22



Scripture Memory: Ephesians 4:11-12

"AND THESE WORDS THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY SHALL BE ON YOUR HEART. YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE, AND WHEN YOU WALK BY THE WAY, AND WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, AND WHEN YOU RISE. YOU SHALL BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND, AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONTLETS BETWEEN YOUR EYES. YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR GATES." - DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9 (ESV)