

LESSON 22 – PETER CROSSES OVER TO GENTILE BYWAY

Acts 10

THEME: To show the differences and the similarities in Peter's and Paul's gospels.

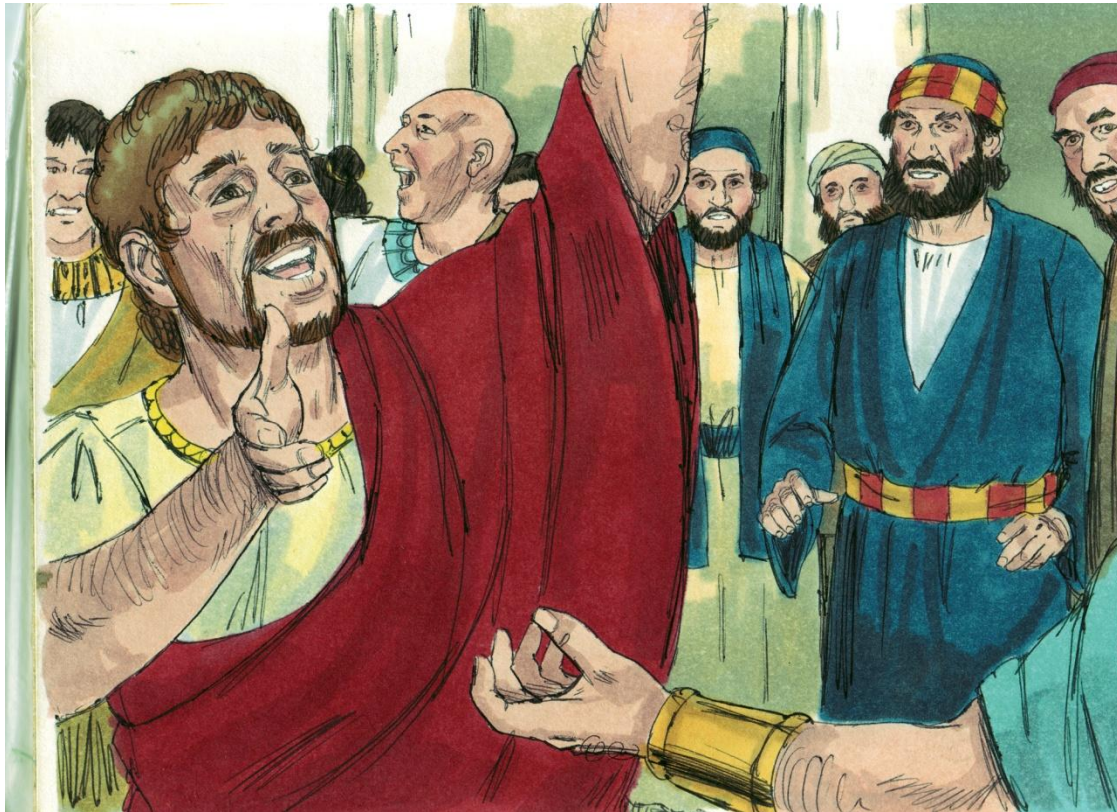
If you look at an orange and a mango, how many ways can you name in which these fruits are different? In colour? In taste? In shape? In how many ways are they alike or similar? Both are round, both are fruits, both are good to eat, etc. Today we are going to see how Peter's gospel (good news) differed from Paul's gospel. We shall also see that they were alike in some ways.

Peter was still enjoying his office as Traffic Director on KINGDOM HIGHWAY. He was under the Law and directing only one kind of people into the Kingdom: *the Jews*, Acts 2:36. He and the other apostles were proving their authority by signs and wonders. Acts 3:1-10, Acts 5:12-16. But then in Acts 9:43 we read that Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon. Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. His prayers and alms ascended as a memorial before God and an angel of God instructed Cornelius to dispatch some men to Joppa, send for Peter to come to his house and hear a message from Peter. Just before the three men arrived at Simon's house, Peter had a vision in which God showed him that he should not call any man unholy or unclean. So the next day Peter went away with them even though it was unlawful for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him. Acts 10:1-33.

With Cornelius, Peter crossed over to GENTILE BYWAY. Peter opened his mouth and explained how he understood now that God is not one to show partiality, but that in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. Then he preached the word which He sent to the sons of Israel, the peace through Jesus Christ, Who is Lord of all; how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. How the Jews put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross and how God raised Him up on the third day; how Christ had shown Himself openly to chosen ones and had commanded them to preach to the people; that He was to be the Judge of the living and the dead; that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins. Acts 10:37-43.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. The circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.

Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Peter had been used by God to cross over to GENTILE BYWAY so the other disciples would know that God now approved sending the good news to the Gentiles.



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Today we live at GRACE AIRPORT. We realize that there are some things different in the messages of Peter and Paul. God tells us that we are to distinguish the things that differ. Philippians 1:10. We are told to rightly divide the Word of Truth. 2 Timothy 2:15.

DIFFERENCES

1. Peter was sent to Cornelius because Cornelius feared God and did what is right. Acts 10:2, 35. But Paul was given the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24) because we, believers in Christ, were hopelessly lost sinners. Romans 3:10-18, Romans 5:8,10.
2. Those who were saved by Peter's gospel spoke in tongues which were given for a sign to the Jews. 1 Corinthians 1:22. Paul said that tongues would cease. 1 Corinthians 13:8.

3. Peter baptized with water to be saved. Mark 16:15-16. Paul says: “Christ did *not* send me to baptize.” 1 Corinthians 1:17. Many attempt to circumvent the obvious in this passage. Something like that all Paul meant by this statement was that preaching the gospel was the more important thing and that he delegated the less important task of baptizing to others. If Paul had delegated the baptizing to others, it would still have been under Paul’s authority that the people would have been baptized. This fact is evident from John 4:1,2 where “Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John, (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were).” If it could be said that Jesus was baptizing when His disciples were actually doing the work, it could also be said that Paul was baptizing when he delegated this work to his helpers. Paul practiced a number of things connected with Israel’s Kingdom gospel. But as revelation progressed concerning the Body of Christ program, Paul finally declared in Ephesians 4:5: “There is one Lord, one faith and ONE baptism.” There can be no doubt as to which baptism is meant in Ephesians 4:5. 1 Corinthians 12:13 plainly states we are put into the Body of Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
4. Peter preached the Law, but Paul preached that Gentiles were not under law, but under grace. Romans 6:14.

SIMILARITIES

1. Both Peter and Paul preached forgiveness of sins through faith in Christ. Acts 10:43, Romans 3:22.
2. Both had a worldwide ministry: Peter for the establishing of the Kingdom; Paul for the calling out of the heavenly Body of Christ. Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:19.
3. Both promise the return of Christ: Peter tells of His coming to earth as King; Paul tells of His coming in the air to gather the Body to Himself. Acts 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Peter preached to none but the Jews only until God revealed that He was no respecter of persons. It was given to Paul to show the full truth of the complete breaking down of all differences. Ephesians 2:14. Now God wants us to see that people of all colours and races need to be saved without religious works. They need to be saved individually through personal faith in the death, burial and resurrection on the third day of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15.

LESSON 22 – WORK SHEET

Peter preached the Gospel (means good news) of the KINGDOM, whereas Paul was called to preach the Gospel (good news) of the BODY OF CHRIST. The aim of this lesson is to show the differences and the similarities of the two messages. Fill in the references given and you will see the importance to *rightly divide the word of truth*.

DIFFERENCES

PETER

PAUL

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|-------|---|--|
| 1.-2. | Sent to Cornelius because he _____.
Acts 10:35 | Sent to the gentiles because they _____.
Romans 5:8 |
| 3.-4. | Those saved spoke with _____.
Acts 10:46 | Says that tongues _____.
1 Corinthians 13:8 |
| 5.-6. | Baptized with _____.
Acts 10:47 | Says he was not sent to _____.
1 Corinthians 1:17 |

SIMILARITIES

- 7.-8. Fill in the blanks below and you will see how the messages of Peter and Paul were alike in many ways.

Both preached forgiveness of sins through _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ.
Acts 10:43, Romans 3:22.

Both had a ministry for all the _____. Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:19.
Peter for establishing the Kingdom; Paul for the calling out of the Body of Christ.

Both have a ministry of the _____ of Christ. Acts 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. Peter tells of Christ's coming as King; Paul tells of Christ's coming as the Head to catch away the Body of Christ.

9. You are an Ambassador for Christ. How do you tell people to be saved? Write the Scripture references you would use: _____

10. Write 2 Timothy 2:15. _____

