

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the Resurrection Sunday live-stream message from Sappony Baptist Church in Stony Creek, Virginia. We are thankful that you have been able to join us this morning. We wish that we could gather in person this morning, but of course the COVID-19 pandemic is still preventing that, so we are thankful for the technology we have that allows us to come together online. Please be sure to like and comment so that we know you've joined in. Audio of this sermon, along with sermon notes and information about our church will be available at [sappony1773.org](http://sappony1773.org).

INVOCATION:

Lord God, thank You for allowing us to gather today in this manner to celebrate the Resurrection of Your Son from the dead. We thank You for His sacrifice for our sins. We thank You for the healing that comes through His blood. Receive our worship this morning as we give to You honor, glory, and praise. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 10:34-43 (ESV)

So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, **35**but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. **36**As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), **37**you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: **38**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39**And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to

death by hanging him on a tree, [40](#)but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, [41](#)not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. [42](#)And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. [43](#)To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

#### BACKGROUND:

Peter was at the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion. This was a highly unlikely place for a Jewish man to find himself, because it was a violation of the Jewish law, because the Gentiles were unclean. However, he had been summoned after a very strange vision involving animals on a sheet being lowered from the sky. Meanwhile, Cornelius also had a vision, with an angel telling him to send for Peter. So here we land, with a powerful centurion and a disciple of Christ in the same room. And here it is where Peter gets to share the gospel with Cornelius and his household.

#### SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:

1. JESUS IS LORD OF ALL (10:34-36)
  - a. (10:34) “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality.”
    - i. Peter was a Jew, one of God’s chosen people. They were raised to look down on the other nations.
    - ii. By giving the vision to Cornelius, God is asserting that the Gentiles have part in salvation through Christ.
  - b. (10:35) But in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.
    - i. Note the “anyone”
    - ii. Who fears Him: If you know Him, you fear and revere Him.

- iii. And does what is right
      - 1. Not salvation by works.
      - 2. Works are the result and evidence of salvation.
    - c. (10:36) He is Lord of all: Literally everyone.
- 2. JESUS FREES THE OPPRESSED (10:37-38)
  - a. (10:37) Beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:
    - i. Jesus' baptism was the beginning of His earthly ministry.
    - ii. Cornelius certainly had been aware of what Jesus was doing, the accusations against Him, and the crucifixion.
    - iii. Peter is giving a context that Cornelius will understand.
  - b. (10:38) How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.
    - i. All 4 gospels mention "the Spirit of God descending like a dove."
    - ii. God gave Christ (the anointed one) power to defeat Satan's works.
  - c. (10:38) He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
    - i. Whether they were possessed or sick, all that He healed were oppressed by the devil in some way.
    - ii. These miracles pointed to what He does for us.
  - d. Jesus still frees the oppressed!
- 3. JESUS DIED AND WAS RAISED FOR ALL (10:39-41)
  - a. (10:39) And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

- i. Peter was one of the twelve who followed Jesus for His whole earthly ministry and witnessed the miracles.
    - b. (10:39) They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree.
      - i. The crucifixion was very public.
      - ii. It was intended to be painful and humiliating.
    - c. (10:40-41) But God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.
      - i. He is risen! It wasn't until the third day to prove that He was actually dead.
      - ii. He appeared to selected witnesses. The nation had rejected Him, so He appeared to those who had not rejected Him.
      - iii. Eating with the disciples proved to them that they were actually interacting with Him in physical form. He was not a figment of their imaginations.
- 4. JESUS IS THE JUDGE OF ALL (10:42-43)
  - a. (10:42) And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.
    - i. Unless the Lord returns beforehand, all of us will die sometime.
    - ii. When we die, we *will* be judged.
    - iii. Those who have rejected Christ will be sentenced to hell for eternity.
    - iv. Those who have accepted Christ will have their works judged.
    - v. "Only God can judge me." That should scare the daylights out of you.

- b. (10:43) To Him all the prophets bear witness
  - i. While Peter would have been very familiar with the prophets, Cornelius would not have been, at least yet.
  - ii. Jesus' birth, life, crucifixion, and resurrection fulfilled thousands of years of prophecy.
- c. Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.
  - i. Here is the key thing! You have a choice to accept Him or reject Him.
  - ii. You can accept His forgiveness today.

5. GOSPEL PRESENTATION (James Merritt)

- a. The bad news: We are all sinners separated from God.
  - i. Everyone sins.
  - ii. God is holy and sin is a barrier between us and Him.
- b. The worst news: There is nothing we can do to take care of our sin problem.
  - i. Religion?
  - ii. Trying harder?
  - iii. Generosity?
- c. The good news: Jesus did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
  - i. He lived a sinless life
  - ii. He died for our sins.
  - iii. His payment was proven at His resurrection.
- d. The best news: God's forgiveness and eternal life is a free gift, and all we have to do is receive it.
  - i. Realize you are a sinner.
  - ii. Repent of your sin.
  - iii. Receive Christ as Lord and Savior.
- e. Three questions

- i. Do you understand what you have heard, and does it make sense to you?
- ii. Is there any reason you can give God that God would accept why you could not receive Christ into your life?
- iii. Are you willing to pray to Christ for your salvation?

**Lord Jesus, I confess today that You are Lord. I turn my life over to You to do Your will. I believe in my heart that You were born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for my sins, was buried for three days, and was raised from the dead on the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and ask Your forgiveness for my sins. I commit my life to You from this day forward. Amen!**

If you just prayed this prayer for the first time and are now a new believer, please let us know in the comments so that we can reach out to you to help you get started in your new life in Christ.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all this week. Amen!