



## BUILDING MEMORIALS

**T**omorrow we celebrate Memorial Day to honor all of the fallen soldiers. When we pray we are building memorials in heaven. Even non-Christians can build memorials in heaven when they are seeking the truth and do not even know who they are praying to.

### **Acts 10:1-48**

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

8 And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon

the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold,

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I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

29 Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.

32 Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou

hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

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46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,  
47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?  
48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Cornelius was a Roman soldier who prayed to God continually. He was a pagan who worshipped everything not wanting to miss his chance of entering into heaven. Thus when he was stationed in Israel and learned about Judaism, he also included the Jewish God in his devotions. Thus you can see this by his worshiping Peter.

Although Cornelius did not know the Lord, his prayers and alms built a memorial in heaven before the Lord. Thus when we pray to the Lord we also are building a memorial in heaven!

Imagine if you can, a hated occupying officer of the Roman Legion seeking an unknown God. Here was a proud Roman Officer seeking the God of a conquered people. Two thousand years ago the conquering army had very little respect for the gods of the conquered since they believed that their gods must be more powerful. Thus Cornelius was not your normal Roman officer. He was a man who was really seeking the truth and had no regard for the status quo.

The memorial that Cornelius built required God to prepare Peter to accept an invitation from the awful hated Roman occupiers. God had to send a vision to Peter three times to get Peter's attention! Every time Peter kept insisting that he never had eaten anything that was common or unclean. God told Peter that what God had cleaned not to call common or unclean.

This was a serious lesson from the Lord for Peter and the others who went with him. The lesson was not fully learned until Cornelius and other Romans received the Holy Ghost. This lesson would never have been learned if Cornelius did not build

his memorial in heaven.

We also need to build our own personal memorial in heaven. When you are seeking the truth and you do not know the Lord, by praying to the unknown god will get results.

### **Acts 17:15-33**

15 And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

18 Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babblers say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?

20 For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

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26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;  
27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:  
28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.  
29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.  
30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:  
31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.  
32 And when they heard of the resurrection of

the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.  
33 So Paul departed from among them.

Paul was building a memorial when he set out to preach to those who did not know God and worshiped an Unknown God. We build our memorial whenever we serve the Lord with our whole heart. When we converse to nonbelievers about the wonderful grace and mercy of the Lord we are building a memorial in heaven. When we preach on the street we are building a memorial in heaven.

The more you pray, preach, and share the Gospel, the greater the monument in heaven you are building.

## The Full Gospel Church

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### **Services:**

Sunday School . . . . . 11:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 12:00 Noon  
Sunday Evening . . . . . 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Evening . . . . . 7:30 PM

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