

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### “Matured Ministry/Defeats Criticism”

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

Over the course of time the Apostle Peter oversaw his work with the Lord in a way that showed spiritual maturity. He, like every servant of the Lord who is sent to bring forth a new work, faced criticism. The Book of Acts records one of the times when the cancer of traditionalism kept Christians from recognizing a powerful move of God. “The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, ‘You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.’ Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened.” (Acts 11:1-4) “When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, ‘So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance

unto life.’” (Acts 11:18) A ministry matured in the Holy Spirit defeats criticism.

The Holy Spirit reveals the importance of God’s work through Peter by moving Luke to refer to the events of the ministry in Cornelius’s household three different times in

the Book of Acts. I would propose to you if the work of the Lord was important enough to have the Holy Spirit move Luke to write down the events of Peter’s ministry, it should be important enough for the Body of Christ to take note of the truths surrounding Peter’s ministry.

It is important to note that those who criticized Peter’s ministry to the Gentiles were Jewish Christians, “circumcised believers” who needed a fuller understanding of the whole counsel of the Word of God. Everyone in the church can easily fall into the same spiritual blindness as the religious people of Peter’s day. Thus Christians prayerfully seek Holy Spirit illumination of the whole of Scripture to cleanse them from the cancers of traditionalism, legalism, faddism, and denominationalism. They desire to mature in ministry and give Biblical accountability, like Peter did.

When Christians learn how to Biblically seek revelation from God and Biblically present His revelation to the Body of Christ, spiritual leaders will rejoice in the work of the Lord.

### Completing God’s Work



God has given each of us abilities and talents, tools with which to build up His Kingdom on earth. “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” (Romans 12:6) What an honor that our Heavenly Father has placed us upon the earth to serve Him with the gifts we have been given—let us use them! One excellent way to serve God is through your house of worship. There, you can discover your talents, and by serving with your strengths you can do your part to complete God’s work.

#### Weekly Scripture Reading

Acts 20:1-21:16

Acts 21:17-22:16

Acts 22:17-23:11

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1 Corinthians 14:1-25

1 John 2:1-17

1 John 3:1-18

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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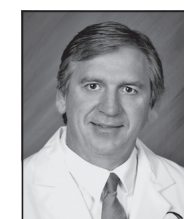


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