

Christian is to possess today. Philippians 2:3-4 states, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

His unselfish nature is not only seen in giving his nephew Lot first choice of land in which to pasture his flocks and herds (Gen. 13:9) but also in his willingness to intercede for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:22-23). Even though they were wicked, Abraham was concerned for them and did what he could to spare them from the judgment which came upon them.

The hospitality he gives to three men, who are angels of God, in

Genesis 18:1-8 also shows his regard for others. Though he does not know these men, he generously provides for their needs. Since Christians are to be "given to hospitality" (Rom. 12:13), the writer of the book of Hebrews uses this incident in the life of Abraham to emphasize this responsibility: "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels" (13:2).

A Pilgrim and Sojourner

Christians are to be pilgrims and sojourners in this life, living in the world but not being of the world (John 15:19; I John 2:15-17). Again, Abraham is their example. "By faith he (Abraham -- GT) dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with

Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:9-10). As he looked "for a city," we must ever be looking to heaven and the things that are above (Col. 3:1-3) realizing that, even now, our real citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).

Conclusion

Because Abraham lived as a friend of God while on earth, he now lives in Paradise (Luke 16:23-31). Since God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35), we can have that same hope if we will live the same life. Let us all follow the example of Abraham and do what is necessary to be those who can be called friends of God. ~

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Sunday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

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NAVARRE MESSENGER

Why Send for Peter?



was none of these things to Cornelius.

The angel told Cornelius to send for Peter, who shall "tell thee what thou oughtest to do;" or "tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved." (See Acts 11:13-f.)

Prayers, alms, and devoutness notwithstanding, this man still needed to be saved. Christianity is far more than good citizenship, moral uprightness, or even respect for God. A Christian has all of this, and more; but these things are found among many who have not yet become followers of Jesus Christ and hence have neither salvation from past sins nor hope for Heaven. This

An angel appeared unto a man named Cornelius. This devout, God-fearing, alms-giving man was praying to God — as was his custom—when an angel of God appeared to him in a vision. (You can read it for yourself— Acts 10)

this could mean hallucinations, latter-day revelations, or special divine appointment. An even greater number would say this proved that Cornelius was saved from his sins—had experienced a "work of grace." I have heard of people "voted into the church" on far less evidence. But the angel

According to popular conceptions

lesson is especially needed by those who have placed their hope for Heaven in the "Great Architect" and welfare work of a lodge.

But why send for Peter? Could not the angel tell Cornelius all he needed to know? Or the Holy Spirit—did not this miraculous out-pouring do all that should be done for him?

When Peter began to speak (11:15) the Holy Spirit was indeed poured out upon these Gentiles—a marvelous thing for Peter and those Jews with him to behold. Until recently they had thought the gospel was for Jews only. (See 10:9-16, 25-29; 11:1-4) It took this demonstration of divine acceptance (as subjects of the gospel) to convince the Jews that the gos-

pel was for all nations. (10:44-f.11:15-f)

But now that they were proven proper subjects of the gospel, there remained the task of preaching: to them, and urging those who would to obey. People must be taught of God; so they may hear, learn and come. (Jn. 6:45) We draw nigh to God through the word of reconciliation. (2 Cor. 5:17-f.)

What the angel or Holy Spirit could do was hedged about by divine regulations. God had placed His truth in "earthen vessels" (2 Cor. 4:7) that its divine origin might be the more apparent. It was not His will then or now that heavenly messengers deliver the story of salvation to the world.

It was "once for all" delivered to inspired men, and through them to the written form in which we now find it. (Jude 3, Eph. 3:1-f. 2 Pet. 1:14-f.)

Peter did exactly what God intended he should do. He preached the good news of Christ to Cornelius and his household, and baptized those who gladly received the word. Note, He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." (Acts 10:48)

Cornelius was not saved -- was not a Christian—until he heard, believed and obeyed the gospel of Christ. ~

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The Widow's Mites

Does it matter what we contribute to the collection for the saints? Yes. But it's not the gift, but the heart behind the gift. As the Lord was watching those who were dropping money into the treasury of the Temple, He remarked about one woman, a widow, who had only deposited two of the smallest coins available in the Roman Empire. Although she gave less than all the others who gave that day, she was singled out because she had given all that she had. Her heart was set to do all that she could and more, and rely upon the Lord, the Giver of all gifts who is "able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." (2 Corinthians 9.8)~

Abraham: The Friend of God



by Gene Taylor

"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God." (James 2:23)

Abraham is called the father of the faithful (Gal. 3:16-29; Rom. 4:11) and "the friend of God" (Jas. 2:23). He is an example to us in many ways, therefore, it is always good to study him and learn from that which the Bible reveals to us about him.

In commenting on the statement that Abraham was "the friend of God," Guy N. Woods said, "God regarded Abraham as his friend because he was ever faithful to God and always submitted his will

to God's." (A Commentary on the Epistle of James, p. 146) In his faithfulness and obedience, Abraham demonstrated several characteristics that we would do well to emulate so that we too might become friends of God.

Faithful

Nearly every action in Abraham's life shows his great faith in God. He left his country and countrymen never to return (Heb. 11:8-16). He believed the promise of a son though such a birth was naturally impossible (Rom. 4:18-21). He cast out a son, Ishmael when Sarah and God commanded it (Gen. 21:9-14). He was even willing to offer Isaac, the son of promise, when God demanded it

(Heb. 11:17-19). Because of his great faith, he enjoyed the victory of faith (Gen. 22:12).

Obedient

As seen in the illustrations above, whatever God wanted Abraham to do, he did. Whether it was leaving his homeland, casting out one son or sacrificing another, he obeyed God without question or qualm.

Devoted

In Genesis 18:19 God states one of the reasons He was able to bless Abraham so abundantly and regard him as His friend. He said, "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." Abraham's devotion to God not only caused him to walk obediently but also allowed him to influence others, especially those in his own house, to do the same.

Peaceable

In situations where strife could have occurred and then escalated, Abraham seemed able to defuse them (cf. Gen. 13:1-13). There was one key trait in his character that caused him to be able to be such a peacemaker—he regarded others better than self. This is a quality that the