

# You Are Not The Audience

**Intro:** As a basis for our study let us turn to Acts 10. Let us notice a few things before we get to our text. Cornelius was a god-fearing man (10:2 “A devout *man*, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway”). He was commanded to send for Simon Peter (10:5 “And now send men to Joppa, and call for *one* Simon, whose surname is Peter:”), which he did (10:8 “And when he had declared all *these* things unto them, he sent them to Joppa”). God showed Peter that he should preach to the Gentiles (10:10-16 “And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, <sup>11</sup>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: <sup>12</sup>Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. <sup>13</sup>And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. <sup>14</sup>But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. <sup>15</sup>And the voice *spake* unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common. <sup>16</sup>This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven”). During this time, Cornelius worked to have a good crowd gathered when Peter came (10:24 “And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends”). Peter met Cornelius and explained his coming (10:26-29 “But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. <sup>27</sup>And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>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?”). Cornelius reviewed the background (10:30-33 “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, <sup>31</sup>And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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”). This brings us to our text in the latter part of Acts 10:33 “Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.” When we come together in worship assembly:

## I. WE SING.

### A. We are instructed to sing.

1. 1 Cor. 14:15 “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”
2. Eph. 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”
3. Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

### B. In singing we:

1. Praise God
  - a. Rom. 15:9 “And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.”
  - b. Heb. 2:12 “Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”
  - c. Heb. 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”
  - d. *Hymns* denotes “a song of praise directed to God.”

2. Teach and admonish
  - a. Eph. 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"
  - b. Col. 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
3. Worship; 1 Cor. 14:15 "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

**C. Every Christian is obligated to be a participant.**

## II. WE PRAY.

**A. We are instructed to pray.**

1. Luke 18:1 "And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"
2. Acts 2:42 "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
3. 1 The. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

**B. In prayer we:**

1. Express thanks to God.
  - a. Phi. 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
  - b. 1 Tim. 2:1 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;"
2. Humbly request God:
  - a. Eph. 6:18 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"
  - b. Phi. 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
  - c. 1 Tim. 2:1 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;"

**C. The man who leads the prayer is leading for all.**

**D. In prayer every Christian is obligated to participate.**

## III. WE TEACH AND LEARN.

**A. Christianity is a taught religion.**

1. Mat. 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen."
2. John 6:45 "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."

**B. The Bible emphasizes teaching and preaching.**

1. 1 Cor. 1:17-23 "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. <sup>18</sup>For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. <sup>20</sup>Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup>For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. <sup>22</sup>For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: <sup>23</sup>But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

2. 1 Tim. 4:13 "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."
3. 2 Tim. 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

**C. In teaching, we instruct, admonish, explain, correct, etc.**

1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup>That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."
2. 2 Tim. 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

**D. The teaching situation requires teaching and learning.**

**E. Even in this preaching situation every Christian is obligated to participate.**

**IV. WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER.**

**A. We are instructed to observe the Lord's Supper.**

1. Acts 20:7 "And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."
2. 1 Cor. 11:23-26 "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: <sup>24</sup>And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. <sup>25</sup>After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. <sup>26</sup>For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

**B. In this supper we have a remembrance of Christ death; we proclaim the Lord's death, we draw near to God.**

**C. Every Christian is obligated to participate.**

**V. WE CONTRIBUTE OF OUR MEANS.**

**A. We are commanded to contribute.**

1. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. <sup>2</sup>Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
2. 2 Cor. 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

**B. In giving we:**

1. Provide the finances for the accomplishing of the Lord's work; 1 Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. <sup>2</sup>Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
2. Are blessed by God.
  - a. Acts 20:35 "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."
  - b. 2 Cor. 9:8-11 "And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work: <sup>9</sup>(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. <sup>10</sup>Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) <sup>11</sup>Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God."

**C. In giving every Christian is to be a participant.**

Conclusion: In each of these areas you are a participant. The word audience refers to (1) Those who watch, not those who participate, (2) Those who observe, not those who perform, (3) To spectators, not participators, (4) To those in the grandstand not to those on the playing field. Therefore we are not the audience.

Cornelius had it right, “we all here present before God.” When we worship we come “before God” as participators, not spectators. Let us also realize that in our every day living, God is the audience, and that we live and work before Him.