

# BLUEPRINT

## There Is No Favoritism

Pastor Jason Rose

<sup>1</sup> At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius... <sup>3</sup> One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" ... <sup>4</sup> "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Peter... <sup>7</sup> When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. <sup>8</sup> He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa. <sup>9</sup> About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray... <sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." <sup>14</sup> "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." <sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven....<sup>19</sup> While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." ...<sup>24</sup> The following day he arrived in Caesarea... <sup>27</sup> While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. <sup>28</sup> He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?" (And Cornelius tells him the story of his vision)... <sup>33</sup> So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. ... <sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all....<sup>39</sup> "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen... <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

**Acts 10:1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-16, 19-20, 24, 27-29, 33-36, 39-40, 42-47 NIV**

God Loves Everyone

## I. The Animals Are Clean

Three Truths:

1. It's Not About You
2. It Is About You
3. It's Not Just About You

<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in (Christ), <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**Colossians 1:19-20 NIV**

*"All who pass by look and see; Man stole the fruit, but I must climb the tree; Not half so sweet as my sweet sacrifice. Was there ever a grief like mine?"*

— George Herbert

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

**Mark 16:15 NIV**

## II. The People Are Clean

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

**1 Peter 3:18 NIV**

The Tabernacle

## III. Grace

Grace is the gift of Jesus' death on the cross, condemning sin in the flesh, disarming the spiritual forces that held us captive. It is a sovereign, free act of God whereby God declares a sinning person to be in a sinless state. Then, Grace is the power that transforms the sinner into the perfection that Christ paid for. Grace is God's credit card. This process happens gradually as the person responds to promptings of the Holy Spirit to forgive, obey, and be made perfect in love. Grace can be resisted and rejected.

Grace is God's credit card at the bank of justice. He pays the bill and gets all the points. But you must deliver the payments in person; that delivery will cost everything you have.

Grace is your new guardian until you come of age and receive your full inheritance that Jesus left you when He died. Grace delivers to you a new teacher, the Holy Spirit, the first deposit of your inheritance.

Grace is God calling what is not as though it were, and then making it what He saw in the first place.

If Grace doesn't grow people, then God is unjust to take on their sin. It's hypocrisy for God to call darkness light, and then not make darkness into light. But God calls what is not as though it were, and then makes the person what He saw before the foundation of the world through His powerful grace.

<sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Matthew 5:48 NIV**

<sup>20</sup> "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 19:20-23 NIV**

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other.

**1 John 3:14 NIV**

<sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**1 John 2:2 NIV**