Peter’s Perception of God
Acts 10:34-35

Introduction:
A. Peter reluctantly goes to Cornelius’ house.
B. Peter perception of God was drastically changed.
C. Three things we need to receive from Peter’s perception of God.

Discussion:
I. God’s Impartiality.
A. God is an equal opportunity God.
   1. Show no respect of persons (v. 34, Deut. 10:17)
   2. Expects the same of us (Deut. 16:19; 1 Tim. 5:21)
B. God offers salvation in Christ to all people alike. (“in every nation whoever”)
   1. Regardless of race, gender, or socio-economic status. (Gal. 3:28).
   2. Moral or immoral; elite or outcast -- if they are willing to change. (Cf. Matt. 21:32)

II. God’s Conditional Acceptance.
A. Two bad four letter words of many religious people – Fear and work.
B. Fearing God is a condition of acceptance. (Matt. 10:28)
   1. It is the beginning of wisdom. (cf. Psa. 111:10).
   2. It is that reverential fear compatible with love. (Cf. Lk. 10:27; 12:5)
   3. It is not that terrifying fear incompatible with love. (Cf. 1 Jn. 4:18).
   4. Cornelius already feared God (vs. 2, 22), now must work righteousness (vs. 47, 48).
C. Working righteousness (obey) is a condition of acceptance. (Cf. Jas. 2:24; Phil. 2:12; Heb. 5:8, 9).
   1. Salvation is offered to all, but only baptized believers accept it (Mk. 16:15, 16).
   2. Forgiveness offered to all (Lk. 24:47), only those who repent & baptized receive it. (Acts 2:38)

III. God’s Unconditional Love
A. Love Is Not the Same as Acceptance.
B. God loves the whole world. (John 3:16).
C. God accepts only those that fear him and works righteousness.
D. God expects us to love every one - even our enemies. (Matt. 5:43-48).
E. God does not expect us to accept every one. (Tit. 3:10,11; 2 John 10).

Conclusion:
A. Are you accepted of God?
B. Do you fear Him?
C. Are you working righteousness?