

PEACE BY JESUS CHRIST.

ACTS X.

IN this chapter we have the foundation truth of the reception of the Gentiles into the church. And one thing very marked in the narrative is, how very present a thing salvation is. Cornelius was an officer, a devout man, who gave alms, &c. God was working graciously in his heart; yet still he had one thing to learn; and that was salvation. I do not say that in God's sight he was not saved, but he had to learn his relation with God as a present thing. So with the jailor, his heart was touched, yet he says, "What must I do to be saved?" Now when God begins thus to work, He finishes what he begins. Here we have the full bringing out of known salvation in order that there may be the enjoyment of God. A father may have forgiven a repenting child in his heart, yet if this forgiveness is not made known, the child cannot be happy.

Here then we have the first case of the Gentiles being brought into the full knowledge of salvation. This is not simply conviction—a man's being born again so as to desire to have peace with God. There must be that, but the gospel is the *answer* of God to all these desires of the heart. The poor woman in Luke vii. was evidently renewed in heart when she went to Jesus. She felt such an attraction in Jesus

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