

What's News at Cornerstone?

God's Word is so richly detailed and intricate in design that almost every passage has numerous different lessons that can be drawn from it. This means that in just about every sermon I prepare, there are facets that by necessity have to fall by the wayside. Sometimes it is a matter of some theological point that would take a long time to explain and interest only a few; I usually don't regret passing those up. But more commonly, it just doesn't fit into the theme or direction God has led me to pursue or I am afraid that it might distract from the "big idea" that I think the Lord wants us to consider.

In any case, each week I am faced with decisions about what to highlight and what to pass over – decisions that require careful thought and much prayer. There are times when I see with crystal clarity exactly how God can use a certain text in our midst, but most often I, like you, am just along for the ride and must trust that God has somehow guided my path and pointed me in the direction that He wants me to lead you.

This week's passage offers many examples. I could have contrasted Peter and Cornelius to show how God shows no favoritism, whether He is dealing with the church's most prominent leader or a gentile God-fearer. On the other hand, I might have explored Peter's first sermon to a gentile audience with a stirring call to those who have not yet trusted Him as Savior. Did I choose right? Only the Lord knows for sure.

Another closely-related phenomenon that usually takes place each week is when the service is over and many of you come up to me to let me know how much you enjoyed the sermon, or tell me how well I did, though I sometimes suspect that you are just being kind, not wanting to hurt my feelings.

Of course, like anyone else I do appreciate the encouragement. (I am only human!) But, what would encourage me even more than your kind and thoughtful words, what would really stir my heart is to hear how God spoke to you *through* the sermon. What did He show you that you must change? How will you use what you learned to serve Him better this week? How do you now love Him more than when you arrived?

My prayer is that today (and every Sunday) you will find at least one thing to take with you that might impact your relationship with Christ for the better. That is, after all, why we are here: to stir one another on to love and good works (Heb. 10:25), to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2), to grow in Christlikeness (2 Cor. 3:18).

And, if you think that I totally missed the mark today, you can let me know that too. Just drop a note in the suggestion box.

Pastor Sean



**Focusing on the ABC's:
Authentic Community,
Biblical Message,
Contemporary Relevance!**

The Art of Unlearning
Acts 10:1-11:18
April 13, 2008