

A MODEL AUDIENCE AT CAESAREA. Acts 10:1-48

*Centurion: Builder of a synagogue at Copenocum Luke 7:1-5
Julius: Courteously entreated Paul at Sidon Acts 27:3*

1. THOSE MAKING UP THIS MODEL AUDIENCE. Acts 10:24, 33

1. Cornelius and his family.
- Kinsmen to Cornelius and his family.
- Friends to Cornelius and his family.

2. SOME WRONG AND IMPROPER VIEWS TAKEN OF THE PIETY OF CORNELIUS.

1. Some have regarded his recorded piety as a sanction for war.

- This is an instance of a soldier becoming a Christian. Not a Christian becoming a soldier.
- Christianity and war are essentially and eternally antagonistic.

2. Still others regard his piety as recorded to show that the gospel is not indispensable to men.

- It has been said that man can be made good without the gospel of Christ.
- The very fact that men of the moral rank of Cornelius are so few in number is a clear demonstration of the failure of "natural" religion to meet the condition of fallen man.

3. THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS MODEL AUDIENCE

1. It was an earnest audience.

- His religion was domestic.** "With all his house."
- His religion was generous. "He gave much alms."
 - Benevolence elevates the mind.
 - Benevolence gives vastness to the view.
 - Benevolence places every object in the full light of heaven.

Acts 20:35

2. It was a solemn audience. The expression "before God" implies:

- Belief in the existence of God. They were neither ATHEISTS...PANTHEISTS...POLYTHEISTS...AGNOSTICS..
They were: MONOTHEISTS.
- Belief in the presence of God. Matt. 18:20

3. It was an inquiring Audience. "to hear all things commanded thee of God." They were assembled not as a matter of; Custom; to sit passively, but to inquire.

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