**Good News**

***34****So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,****35****but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.****36****As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),****37****you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:****38****how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.****39****And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,****40****but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,****41****not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.****42****And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.****43****To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Acts 10:34-43, ESV)*

 God’s “Good News” is that through Jesus, we are accepted by God and our sins forgiven. Greetings in the Lord as today we recall the core of the Gospel, which stands as an answer to Adam’s sin and gives new life to all who accept God’s Savior. Today we’re going to talk about the goodness of the Gospel message. Why was what Peter said considered “good news?” What is our role in this? Again, our theme for today is that the Good News is the truth of being acceptable to God thru Christ and to be forgiven of our sins. Let us focus, then, on these two truths.

 Through Jesus, humanity finds its sense of belonging with God and the forgiveness sins which it seeks. Ever since the sin of Adam, God had been working to gather the epitome of His creation, human beings to Himself, but always respecting their free will in the process. For centuries, millennia even, humanity had distanced itself from God with the exception of one nation, who disobeyed Him regularly, and did not heed God’s directions and commands. Even this nation, the Israelites, which had been freed through miracles, had been miraculously given a Promised Land, was not able to come back to God with their hearts. There was always a lack of peace in their hearts – their lives were constantly full of sin. Even their greatest heroes, Moses, David, and Solomon were full of sin and imperfect, weak in their lives. It is true that David was a man after God’s own heart, but not because of his deeds, but for his close relationship with the Lord. Again, however, God’s own people could live as God’s children without sin. Every year they would have to sacrifice a sin offering. Every year, the Day of Atonement rituals were repeated, because there was no final salvation in the world. This would continue until Jesus died on the cross and then rose from the dead. It was only then that not only the Jew but also the Gentile could belong to God as His child and be forgiven of sin.

 This is like being in stuck in building around which you can see all kinds of treasures and riches piled up high, but you cannot come out of that building. Whatever you do, whatever key you have, nothing opens the door that should open for you. The Good News of the Gospel is that key, that map, that piece of knowledge that is given to a human being when he or she accepts God’s Savior Jesus Christ. It is then that they get the right key, they know the right door, and receive the right revelation to put an end to the endless spiritually nomadic life within.

 The Good News is that we can now belong to our Heavenly Father’s family, because He loves us, and He sent His Son for us to be forgiven and to begin a new life through accepting Him and longer being a slave to sin. We no longer need to be pagans, living without God, without a constant and undying Father – without an eternal meaning for our lives. God has given us good news through Jesus. We also, in turn since we’ve accepted Him are to rejoice in our status as God’s children and also a forgiven people.

 Through Jesus, humanity finds its sense of belonging with God and the forgiveness sins which it seeks. God’s “Good News” is that through Jesus, we are accepted by God and our sins forgiven. May our lives match up with the above and be an example to others. God bless you all. Amen.