

INTRO

Good morning! My name is Jon; I'm one of the pastors here at EAG, and it is a joy and a privilege to open up God's Word with you today.

We are continuing our **REIMAGINE Vision Series** for 2023, looking at some areas that we want to reimagine as a church and as individuals. The past two weeks, Pastor Gerry has walked us through **Reimagining the Great Commandments** – loving God and loving others – and this week, we'll be studying what it means to **Reimagine the Great Commission**.

DEFINING THE TERMS

Before we get into the core of what we're talking about today, we need to define some terms...

- **The Gospel:** the "Good news" of Jesus and the relationship He wants to have with us.

Real quick, I want to unpack this "Good News" by reading you "The Gospel in 6 Words" from **Dare2Share Ministries**. Someone connected me to this resource, and once I read it, it was too valuable not to share with you this morning. Full credit to **Dare2Share** for providing this explanation of the Gospel!

G: God created us to be with Him.

O: Our sins separate us from God.

S: Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.

P: Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

E: Everyone who trusts in Jesus alone has eternal life.

L: Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.¹

Whenever you hear a *Christian* or a *pastor* or *church leader* use the words "**Gospel**" or "**Good News**", this is a rundown of the good news that we're talking about.

- **The Great Commission:** the God-given mandate to share the Gospel with the world around us.

The “Great Commission” comes from a Scripture in **Matthew 28:18b-20** where Jesus gives an assignment to His disciples – and by extension, this assignment applies to Christians and to the church today.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (NIV).

In light of this mandate that Jesus has given us – and in the context of this Reimagine series that our church is working through:

What would it look like for you and me [our church] to REIMAGINE the Great Commission?

What would it look like for EAG Church to “go and make disciples”, and teach the commands of Jesus to the community of Rocky Mount?

Here’s the key takeaway that we’re going to build on today:

Before we can impact THE WORLD with the Gospel, the Gospel must impact US first.

Before we go any further today, let’s PRAY...

Lord, we thank You for the power of the Gospel. Some find it foolish...others find it offensive and a stumbling block...but for us who are being saved, the Gospel is the power of God.

As we study the importance of the Gospel and the Great Commission today, we pray that You would impact us deeply with the wonder of the Gospel – that Christ Your Son should become one of us, take our sin, take our punishment, and restore us to right relationship with You. May we never take that for granted, and may our wonder with the Gospel motivate us to share it the best we know how.

Now may You give us eyes to see and ears to hear what Your Spirit would say to us today through Your Word. In Jesus’ name, amen.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN “FASCINATION” AND “FOCUS”

Before we can impact the world with the Gospel, the Gospel must impact us first. Here’s why this is so important:

When we lose our fascination with the Gospel, we will ultimately lose our focus on the Great Commission.

Everything we do and everything we’re about as a church must have its basis in a fascination with the Gospel.

Whenever we lose our fascination with the Gospel:

- When the message of the cross goes from the centerpiece of every Sunday to an optional add-on that we only bring out when we have to...

We will lose our focus on the Great Commission and get distracted.

Distracted fascination can happen in a whole spectrum of ways. For example:

Instead of being fascinated by the Gospel, some churches/Christians are fascinated by TRENDINESS.

TREND-DRIVEN CHURCH

- In the trend-driven church, the Gospel becomes “just another voice to be heard”, and not an authority to be obeyed.
- The Great Commission revolves around making disciples of a philosophy, but not disciples of Christ.
- This church can talk all day about social justice, behavior modification, self-esteem, self-improvement, self-this, self-that...and the Gospel is reduced to an “inspirational cure-all” for felt needs.
- Felt needs are not inherently bad, but a church that focuses only on felt needs will miss the deepest need of humanity: our need to be made alive in Christ.

Jesus did not come to make bad people good; He came to make dead people alive! No amount of social justice or community betterment or self-improvement will ever provide the spiritual resurrection that can only be realized by

surrendering to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

On the opposite extreme of **TRENDINESS**, there are other churches who are fascinated with **TRADITION**.

TRADITION-DRIVEN CHURCH

(When I use the term “tradition”, I am NOT talking about “tenets”...non-negotiables like the exclusivity of Christ or the authority of God’s Word...NONE OF THAT GETS TOUCHED! This is referring to **man-made** tradition which has been elevated to **God-ordained** status.)

- In the tradition-driven church, the Gospel becomes a **relic to be preserved** and not a **lifeline to be shared**.
- The Great Commission revolves around making **disciples of the past**, not disciples of Christ.
- Sure, this church might *talk* about the Gospel. But whenever they do, they talk about it in terms of the “the good old days”... “If we could just bring back the 80’s...if we could just go back to red carpet and wooden panelling...if we could just resurrect Ronald Reagan, we could bring back revival!”
- The church gets so fascinated with what God **did then** that they lose focus of what God wants to **do now**.
- The **man-made tradition** drowns out **God-given Gospel**.

TRANSITION to the TEXT

That distraction with man-made tradition is not exclusive to North America; **this actually dates back to the early church in the book of Acts**. We’re going to look at Acts 11 today – with a quick overview of Acts 10 – and as you turn there, let’s look at the context.

CONTEXT of ACTS 10 & 11

- Remember the Great Commission that Jesus gave in Matthew 28: “Go and make disciples of every nation”. Initially, the church in Jerusalem got off to a great start with making disciples.

- On the day of Pentecost, God grew the Jerusalem church by the thousands. There was a real Spirit-led momentum, excitement, and fervor to share the message of Jesus.
- But starting around Acts 6, the Jewish influence of the founding members comes into conflict with the Gentile influence of the newcomers.
Eventually, the Jerusalem church gets stuck in a “Jewish exclusivist mindset”...where the Great Commission becomes the Jewish Commission.
- The instruction to “Go and make disciples of every nation” has somehow turned into “Go and make Jewish disciples from just the Jews in every nation.” We have this severe “Great Commission disconnect” going on.
- **So in response to this disconnect, God decides to shake up the whole paradigm of the early church.**
- **Not only will the church be re-impacted by the Gospel – but from this point on in the book of Acts, the Jerusalem church will discover a deep need to reimagine the Great Commission...starting with its leader, Peter.**

ACTS 10 & 11 BULLET POINTS

Now most of our time today is going to be spent in Acts 11, which is Peter’s first-person retelling of Acts 10... But just to get you up to speed, here’s a quick overview of what happens in Acts 10:

- The chapter starts with a man named Cornelius, a Gentile centurion in the Roman military. The Bible says that Cornelius and his family are very “devout and God-fearing”. They pray to God regularly, they give generously, they’re very spiritually-minded, BUT – they are not in relationship with Jesus. Not yet...
- So in response to Cornelius’ prayers and generosity, God sends an angel to him and the angel instructs Cornelius to send “men to Joppa, and ask for a man named Simon who is called Peter”.
- The next day, as Cornelius’ staff is travelling to find Peter, Peter sees a vision which messes with his Jewishness by instructing him to kill and eat

non-kosher animals.

- Peter doesn't know it yet...**but this bizarre vision is God's way of preparing Peter to be re-impacted by the Gospel.** Remember our takeaway: **Before we can impact the world with the Gospel, the Gospel must impact us first.** This vision sets the stage for everything that comes later.
- Immediately after Peter's vision, Cornelius' staff "just so happens" to find Peter in Joppa. They invite Peter to speak to Cornelius; Peter takes some friends with him; they all travel from Joppa to Cornelius' home in Caesarea (that's about the same distance as Rocky Mount to Chapel Hill).
- Once they get there, Peter shares the Gospel with Cornelius and his household.
- It's an awkward interaction at first, because Peter is hung up on the Jewish customs which forbid him from even being in the same house as Cornelius.
- **But it's here in this awkward moment that the Gospel makes an impact.**
- While Peter is still speaking, the Spirit of God moves in power. Everyone gets saved; everyone gets baptized; **and Peter is forced to reimagine what the Great Commission is really all about.**

Now that we've seen the overview of Acts 10, we're going to slow right down and work our way through Acts 11. This is Peter's first-person account of the previous events in Chapter 10; **his** experience will provide some valuable insight for **us** .

In reading Acts 11, we discover **3 Results of Gospel Impact**. The first one is this:

When the Gospel truly impacts us...

1. WE WILL RESET OUR PRIORITIES

When Peter comes back from his experience with Cornelius, we see that the Jewish Christians have their priorities out of whack.

¹ **Soon the news reached the apostles and other believers in Judea that the Gentiles had received the word of God.** [This **should** have been a cause for

great celebration!] ² But when Peter arrived back in Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him. ³ “You entered the home of Gentiles and even ate with them!” they said. ⁴ Then Peter told them exactly what had happened.

Instead of REJOICING over the fruit of the Gospel, the first response from these Jewish believers is RESISTANCE.

- They’re *less* concerned about this Gospel win and *more* concerned that Peter associated with people who were “less than” according to Jewish culture.
- That’s why many translations of this passage will say, “You entered the home of *uncircumcised men* and ate with them.” You ate with people who aren’t up to our standards.

Just so you know – as Pastor Gerry likes to say – this particular rule that the Jewish believers are upset about...

...this whole policy of “Thou shalt not hang out with Gentiles!” ...

...that was NOT a God-given rule; it was actually a *man-made rule*.

Listen to this insight from Commentator (MARVIN Vincent):

“The Jews professed to ground this prohibition on the law of Moses; *but there is no direct command in the Mosaic law forbidding Jews to associate with those of other nations.*”ⁱⁱ

Another commentator (Joseph Benson) has this to say:

“[Eating with Gentiles] was not made unlawful by the law of God, *but by the precepts of [the Jewish] wise men*, which [the Jews] looked upon to be no less obliging.”ⁱⁱⁱ

In other words, these Jewish believers took a man-made principle and elevated it to God-given status.

Perhaps you’re wondering: “Didn’t God tell the Jews in the Old Testament to be *separate* and *different* from the Gentiles?”

In **most ways, yes...** God **did** expect the Jews to be **morally and spiritually separate** from the Gentiles; they **were** forbidden from **solidarity** with **Gentile culture** and **pagan religion**.

But God **also** told the Jews in **Leviticus 19:33-34**: **“When an alien [i.e. Gentile] lives with you in your land, you must not oppress him... You are to love him as yourself...”** (CSB)

“Yes, I’ve called you to be **separate** from them, and you’re not to **imitate** them, but that does not give you the right to **look down** on them either.”

This is a case where the Jews took a legitimate God-given command (the holy differences between Jew and Gentile) **and weighed it down with a whole bunch of man-made baggage...man-made priorities that completely missed the point of God’s original purpose**. That’s something you and I would NEVER do, right?

If we’re honest, that’s something we all do at some point...

That’s something that Peter was doing...until God got his attention and **reset Peter’s priorities** in a powerful way. Listen as Peter tells us what happened:

⁵ **“I was in the town of Joppa,”** he said, **“and while I was praying, I went into a trance and saw a vision. Something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners from the sky. And it came right down to me. ⁶When I looked inside the sheet, I saw all sorts of tame and wild animals, reptiles, and birds. [If there were pigs in that vision, then you might say that this is the first ever mention of “pigs in a blanket.”] ⁷And I heard a voice say, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat them.’**

⁸ **“‘No, Lord,’ I replied. ‘I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure or unclean.’**

⁹ **“ But the voice from heaven spoke again: ‘Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.’ ¹⁰This happened three times before the sheet and all it contained was pulled back up to heaven.**

Peter was trying to protect his priorities – **“No, Lord, I have never eaten pork rinds in all my life! Don’t mess me up like this!”** But God supersedes all of that when He says: **“Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.”**

“This is not about **your** priorities, Peter; this is about **MY** priorities and **MY** purpose.”

The reason this vision happens is so that Peter will be emotionally and spiritually prepared for what he is about to experience with Cornelius.

- Peter’s interaction with Cornelius will put him in **direct conflict** with his **Jewish cultural priorities**.
- But God wants Peter to understand that **our priorities must bow to God’s purpose**.
- God is **not** interested in Peter maintaining his “spotless Jewish record”.
- But He **is** interested in using Peter to accomplish His **purpose** – to take the Gospel beyond the Jews and declare Jesus to every nation...including Gentiles.

MODERN APPLICATION

You know...sometimes our priorities cause us to lose sight of the Gospel, don’t they?

- We can place great priority on **outward appearance**... yet we fail to consider whether the Gospel has impacted our own **inner condition**.
- We can place great priority on **external behavior**...yet our **internal thought life** rages along **unchecked** and **unsurrendered**.

How about those churches that we talked about earlier?

- The trend-driven church will place great priority on **technology, strategies,** and **excitement**...but **the mania for the method can minimize the Message**.
- On the flip side, the tradition-driven church will place great priority on **history, propriety,** and **sentimentality**...but **the obsession with “the old days” can shut out new testimonies and new life that God wants to bring**.

If we truly take the Gospel seriously...and if we truly desire to reimagine the Great Commission...we must obey the Holy Spirit's call to reset our priorities.

We must have that Peter moment ["pigs in a blanket moment"]:

- where we are less concerned with being "unclean"
- less concerned about protecting our own man-made priorities
- and more concerned with allowing the Gospel to impact us at our core
- regardless of the struggle we find within ourselves.

TRANSITION

If we are truly impacted by the Gospel...

Not only will we reset our priorities, but #2...

2. WE WILL REVERE GOD'S PREROGATIVE

"Prerogative" is an interesting word; it means "right, or authority, or privilege", based on the rank of one's position. (Pastor Gerry has the prerogative to provide spiritual leadership to the church; a judge has prerogative to hand down a sentence to a criminal.)

When we talk about revering God's prerogative in the context of the Gospel, we're saying that we will fully honor God's right and God's authority to guide our lives and direct our steps for His purpose. Pastor Skip Heitzig puts it this way: "God has editing rights over our life. God has prerogative."

So as we continue in Acts 11, Peter is going to submit himself to God's prerogative, specifically in the context of delivering the Gospel.

¹¹ "Just then three men who had been sent from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying. ¹² The Holy Spirit told me to go with them and not to worry that they were Gentiles. These six brothers here accompanied me, and we soon entered the home of the man who had sent for us. ¹³ He told us how an angel had appeared to him in his home and had told him, 'Send messengers to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. ¹⁴ He will tell you how you and everyone in your household can be saved!"

Can you imagine what must've been going through Peter's mind when those three men arrived in Joppa?

What would you do if three deputies showed up at your door and said, "We're here from the Sheriff's office in Chapel Hill; an angel showed up to the sheriff and told him that he needs to hear your message, so he wants you in his office as soon as possible." That might make us a bit nervous, wouldn't it?

But notice what Peter says in Verse 12:

"***The Holy Spirit told me to go with them and not to worry that they were Gentiles.***"

The earlier chapter, Acts 10:19-20, gives us an even fuller picture of this moment:

"...the Holy Spirit said to [Peter], 'Three men have come looking for you. ²⁰ Get up, go downstairs, and go with them ***without hesitation***. Don't worry, ***for I have sent them.***'"

Peter didn't hesitate; he obeyed God to the best of his knowledge in that moment. ***And out of Peter's obedience to God's prerogative, the Spirit of God moved mightily.*** Verse 15 :

¹⁵ "As I began to speak," Peter continued, "the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as He fell on us at the beginning."

MODERN APPLICATION

Just as Cornelius needed to hear Peter's message, there are people in Rocky Mount who desperately need to hear our message.

We really need to ask: What would it look like to follow the leading of God and share the Gospel without hesitation?

We cannot engage the Great Commission from a place of "doing our Christian duty" ...or "making the community better" ...or even "getting more people".

Our impetus for the Great Commission must start by **recognizing** the significance of the Gospel, and **revering** the God who has entrusted us with that Gospel.

When we lose our reverence for God, and when we are no longer impacted by the Gospel, we will lose our ability to effectively engage the Great Commission.

When we ignore God's prerogative, we'll end up like the Israelites in the wilderness.

That's where...instead of obeying God, we decide that we would rather follow **our plans, our comfort, our ideals,** and **stay in the desert of our own agenda** rather than **follow God's voice into the promised land.**

Are we willing to revere God's prerogative, even if He calls us to something **uncomfortable**? Something **dangerous**? Something that will **challenge us, break us,** and **make us** into the people God wants us to become? *pause*

TRANSITION

If we are truly impacted by the Gospel...not only will we **reset our priorities**...and **revere God's prerogative**...but **we will respond to God's plan.**

3. WE WILL RESPOND TO GOD'S PLAN

Listen to Peter's "aha moment" ...Verses 16 and 17:

¹⁶ **Then I thought of the Lord's words** when He said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ **And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift He gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to stand in God's way?"**

Another version says this: "How was I to forbid God?"

Here's what Peter realized in his Great Commission reimagining :

- "God's plan is **not** for the Gospel to be restricted to the Jews...
- ...but **rather,** God's plan is for the Gospel to touch **every nation** and **every person**...
- ...even a person like Cornelius...

- ...someone who does not fit in at all with our customs and our culture....
- This guy is as Gentile as he can get!
- ...and still, God's plan is that this non-Jewish, uncircumcised Roman Soldier would come to saving faith in Jesus Christ...
- ...the same Jesus who saved us...and brought us into the family of God."
- Look at what the Lord has done! Made us one by the blood of Jesus.

Not only was Peter re-impacted by the Gospel, but so were the Jewish Believers who had been criticizing him a moment ago.

Verse 18 :

¹⁸ When the others heard this, they stopped objecting... [Some translations go further and say that they "fell silent". The impact of the Gospel left them at a loss for words.] They stopped objecting...and began praising God. They said, "We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life." "This has been God's plan all along – and it's time for us to get on board and respond to what God wants to do."

MODERN APPLICATION

Here's what's so important about the plan of God.

There can be wonderful consequences for RESPONDING to God's plan; and there can also be devastating consequences for REJECTING God's plan.

Look in the Bible:

- Noah responded to God's plan by living a righteous life in a wicked culture...and God saved Noah and his family from the worldwide flood (Gen. 6-8).
- The Israelites rejected God's plan by rebelling in the wilderness...and an entire generation missed out on the land that God had promised to them (Num. 13-14).
- Joshua responded to God's plan by obeying God's instructions in the battle of Jericho...and God gave him a great victory (Josh. 5-6).

- King Saul ***rejected*** God's plan by disobeying God's instructions in a battle with the Philistines...and not only did Saul lose God's blessing, but his family lost the right to an entire dynasty that God would have given them (1 Sam. 13:13).
- Jesus ***responded*** to God's plan by coming down to earth, becoming one of us, and making relationship with God available to everyone who calls on His Name.
- And of course, Peter ***responded*** to God's plan by realizing that his priorities had to bow to God's purpose and God's prerogative.

This is the question we need to ask today: ***"What is OUR response going to be to God's plan?"***

TRANSITION to CONCLUSION / CALL FOR SALVATION

Before we can impact the world with the Gospel, the Gospel must impact us first.

Perhaps you're here today, and you've never been impacted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ before.

- You might have grown up in a Christian or religious home...
- You might call yourself a "spiritual person"...
- You might watch sermons on TV or on your phone
- You might listen to Christian music...
- You might even go to church every now and then...
- But near as you can tell, the Gospel has never impacted your life before.

Perhaps you're seeing or understanding the Gospel message for the very first time...

...and you're realizing that you need to place your trust in Jesus...

- **You need to surrender your life to Him, and call on Him to be your Lord, your Savior, and your King.**

Maybe you haven't done that before...OR, maybe you have...

CALL for REDEDICATION

Maybe you were impacted by the Gospel *a long time ago*.

- Your relationship with God was vibrant
- You loved telling others about Jesus
- Jesus was the centerpiece of everything in your life

But maybe that original impact has worn off...

- Maybe your priorities aren't as Christ-centric as they used to be.
- Maybe God's prerogative – His ranking in your life – has dropped to the point where Jesus is more of an afterthought than He is your Lord.
- Maybe God's plan has been buried beneath the preoccupation of all your own plans...
- ...and you know it's time to get back to where you used to be...so that God can use you to carry His Gospel and engage His Great Commission in the way He wants you to.

If you're in either of those places today, take hope! The Gospel still works!

Jesus said in John 6:35-37: “³⁵ I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty... ³⁷ those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them.”

- If you sense that God the Father is speaking to you today...
- If you feel spiritually hungry for the hope and the impact of the Gospel...
- If you need some time to get real with God and let His Gospel come to life in you...

We're going to create some space for you to engage with that today.

- We've got a lower third with our church's contact info so that you can message us for prayer and for support.
- We're going to have a cross and a background motion on the screen so that you can pray and have your own moment with God.
- And before we go there, I'm going to close out with prayer...

IN-PERSON CONCLUSION: SALVATION and INTERCESSION

I want to speak to **3 Groups of People** as we prepare to close.

1. Those who have never been impacted by the Gospel before.

Perhaps you're here today, and you've never understood the Gospel of Jesus Christ up to this point.

- You might have grown up in a Christian or religious home...
- You might call yourself a "spiritual person" ...
- You might watch sermons online or listen to Christian music...
- You might even go to this church from time to time...
- But near as you can tell, the Gospel has never impacted your life before. [Gospel in 6 words on screen.]

Perhaps you're seeing or understanding the Gospel message for the very first time...

...and you're realizing that you need to place your trust in Jesus...

- **You need to surrender your life to Him, and call on Him to be your Lord, your Savior, and your King.**

2. Those who need to be impacted by the Gospel again.

Maybe you were impacted by the Gospel **a long time ago**.

- Your relationship with God was vibrant...
- You loved telling others about Jesus...
- Jesus was the centerpiece of everything in your life...

But maybe that original impact has worn off...

- Maybe your priorities aren't as Christ-centric as they used to be.
- Maybe God's prerogative – His say-so in your life – has dropped to the point where Jesus is more of an afterthought than He is your Lord.
- Maybe God's plan has been buried beneath the preoccupation of all your own plans...

- ...and rather than being **NUMB** to the Gospel, you need a **FRESH ENCOUNTER** with it...a fresh re-impacting **by the grace and truth of Jesus.**

3. Those who are praying for the Gospel to impact someone else.

All of us have people in our lives who need Jesus and are living without Him.

It might be someone you know...a **friend**...a **sibling**...a **child**...a **parent**

Not only do we have those we know, but there are also those who we don't know...

If you look on the back of every chair, you'll see a piece of paper with the question from our Reimagine video: "**What would it take to fill this chair?**"

Here's what I want you to do:

- If there is a person sitting in the chair directly in front you...if that chair has an actual, real-life person in it...take the paper off the seatback, and hold it in your hand. (If no one takes the paper from your chair, turn around and take the paper off your own chair instead.)
- Again, if a chair is occupied, take the paper off and hold it in your hand.
- If a chair is empty, for any reason – even if someone was sitting there earlier – I want you to leave the paper there.

As you look around the sanctuary, think about this: All of those untouched papers represent untouched people in Rocky Mount who have never been changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now for the paper you're holding in your hand, I want you to do one of two things:

1. If YOU'RE praying for yourself – if you're the one who needs to be impacted by the Gospel – I want you to write out your own prayer to God... All the questions, all the reflections – whatever you feel that you need to say to God, just start writing it down.

OR

2. If you're praying for someone else who needs to be impacted by the Gospel, I want you to write down their name and take time to pray for them. You can write that prayer down, speak it out loud; but whatever it looks like, just pray for that person... I've written the name "Riley" on my paper...

We've got some prayer music that we're going to play upstairs.

- Pray for yourself or your family.
- Pray over these empty seats and untouched papers.

And after we've had a few minutes of praying for Gospel impact, Pastor Gerry will come up and close the service in prayer.

Let's cry out to God for fresh Gospel impact as we seek to Reimagine the Great Commission.

*DISCLAIMER: This manuscript was written and preached by Jon Engler for the weekend of February 12, 2023 at EAG Church in Rocky Mount, NC. This manuscript is solely owned by EAG and has been published online for reflection and deeper study. The reproduction and/or distribution of this manuscript, either in part or in full, without the author's express written consent, is strictly forbidden.

ⁱ *Life in 6 words: The gospel message explained*. Dare 2 Share. (2022, October 11). Retrieved February 7, 2023, from <https://www.dare2share.org/resources/life-in-6-words>

ⁱⁱ *Acts 10 Vincent's Word Studies*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/vws/acts/10.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ *Acts 10 Benson Commentary*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/benson/acts/10.htm>