

Reasons to Believe Cornelius is NOT in the Body of Christ.

I disagree with the teaching that Cornelius was in the Body of Christ. Below, I've listed several things that I think are worthy of study:

1. Peter never preached him the gospel of Christ in Acts 10. (Paul said the "gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation."-for the body of Christ.)
2. Cornelius was not a "lost" man when Peter went to him. See v.1,2 and v.36,37. He was as any other blessed Gentile, waiting for the Saviour.
3. What occurred in v.44-46 was the same as occurred in Acts 4:31; the receiving of the Holy Ghost. There was no repentance, no selling out, etc.
4. What Peter said to him concerning his acceptance is v.34,35: "...he that feareth (God) and worketh righteousness is accepted with him." This is in stark contrast to Titus 3:5 where Paul said, "...not by works of righteousness", etc.
5. Even though Acts 10 follows the story of Paul's conversion in Acts 9, it isn't automatically true that the historical sequence is the same. Several books have events which are in backtrack, or reverse settings.
6. This is the last part I will bore you with: There is a continuation of the Apostles ministry and their doctrine being preached in the book of Acts after that. According to Paul in Gal.2:7,8,9, they were to continue going to the circumcision with the gospel of the circumcision, because they were commissioned to do so by the Lord. The Lord never spoke again to the Apostles of Jerusalem and changed their mission just as He never let Paul go into Jerusalem to preach his gospel, see Acts 22:18; and stopped him from going Eastward from Mysia in Acts 16 when he desired to go where Peter was writing to people (compare 1Peter 1:1). This lends credibility to Paul saying Rom.15:20 and 2Cor.10:16.

There is a certain failing of Scripture if one says that the "kingdom" message stopped or that there could not have been a diminishing of the Apostles doctrine while Paul was preaching and forming (by conversion) the body of Christ.

"Diminishing" for Israel and her promises is clearly spoken of in Rom.11:12. And a close examination of Peter's writing renders him, as well as the writer of Hebrews, continuing on in the same doctrine well into the timeframe of Paul's preaching.

1. Peter and the author of Hebrews both show their constituents how they must fear losing their salvation while Paul obviously didn't.
2. Peter spoke of tribulation and getting through it having held out while Paul clearly shows we are saved from it.
3. Peter wrote of redemption by the blood, Paul wrote of atonement.