Cornelius: Why Peter, and not Paul?

Acts 10

- One of the hardest things in life to do is to _____.

- The apostle Paul had to go through one of those "waiting" time periods. After fleeing Jerusalem in Acts 9:30, Paul was sent to his hometown of Tarsus.

- Paul is not mentioned again until Acts 11:25 when Barnabas brought him to Antioch.

- Why did Paul have to wait patiently in Tarsus? What was God's purpose?

First, God made Paul wait to _prepare_ him for an effective ministry to others.

Second, God made Paul wait to prepare _____ for Paul's unique ministry.

- Paul's mission in life would be to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the _____. Acts 22:17-21, 26:14-18

- But, there were some major obstacles to overcome before this could happen.

- The church in Acts was exclusively _____.

- Paul's ministry to the Gentiles would have never been received, or accepted, by the Jerusalem church at that time.

- The church simply wasn't _____ for Paul's ministry yet. God had to do some things first, and until then Paul would have to wait.

- What happened during this time? During this waiting time period in Tarsus, a major event took place that would open the door for Paul's ministry to the Gentiles.

- God commissioned the apostle _____ to go into the home of a Gentile (Cornelius) and share with him the good news of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Acts 10

- This is one of the most momentous events in history.

- Peter learned that, in this present age of grace, God would be no respecter of persons. vs. 34

- Jews or Gentiles could be saved and brought into the church through _____ in Jesus Christ. vs. 43

- The church did not readily accept this change, but Peter explained it to them, and they did accept it. Acts 11:1-18

- After this change had occurred, now Paul could come on the scene, and his ministry to the Gentiles began.

- The idea of Gentile salvation had to be accepted in the _____ before Paul could begin his life's work. Acts 11:25

- Why did Paul have to wait?

  ⇒ _____ had to be prepared.

  ⇒ _____ had to be prepared.