

## **THE SECOND PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY CHURCH** **(Acts 5:17-42)**

- *What is the real nature of conflict in this world? (Eph. 6:10-12; 2 Cor. 4:3-4)*
  
- *What two primary means does Satan use to oppose the work of God? (Acts 5:3; 16:16-18; 2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; 1 Tim. 4:1 and Luke 22:31-32; 1 Peter 5:8-9)*
  
- *What must we remember in this great spiritual battle? (1 John 4:4; Rom. 8:35-37)*

### **I. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JERUSALEM (1-7)**

#### **A. The BIRTH of the CHURCH in JERUSALEM (1-2)**

#### **B. The INFANCY & GROWTH of the CHURCH in JERUSALEM (3-7)**

##### **1. The Powerful Miracle and Message of Peter in Jesus' Name (3:1-26)**

##### **2. The Persecution, Witness, and Prayer of the Early Church (4:1-31)**

##### **3. The Great and Dynamic Early Church (4:32-5:16)**

##### **4. The Second Persecution of the Early Church (5:17-42)**

###### **a) The Sanhedrin's Persecution of the Apostles (5:17-28)**

1) The second persecution of the early church was \_\_\_\_\_ and involved the Sadducees arresting the apostles out of \_\_\_\_\_, whereas the first persecution and imprisonment of Peter and John was more \_\_\_\_\_, involving the \_\_\_\_\_ they preached. (vv. 17-18)

- *Where were they placed and for what purpose?*

2) In response, the Lord sent an \_\_\_\_\_ to release the apostles who were \_\_\_\_\_ to speak to the people in the temple the message of \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ. (vv. 19-21)

- *What does this imply about God supporting the preaching of the gospel?*
  
- *Why is their message here called "the words of this life?" (John 6:35; 10:10; 11:25-26; 14:6; 1 John 5:12-13)*

b) The Apostles' Preaching to the Sanhedrin (5:29-32)

- 1) The apostles responded by saying they were under a higher authority than the Sanhedrin and that they \_\_\_\_\_ obey \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 29)
  - *What must we remember as believers about civil disobedience?*
- 2) The apostles also responded by proclaiming the \_\_\_\_\_ message of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 30)
  - *What is the significance of "hanging on a tree"? (Deut. 21:22-23; Acts 10:39; 13:29; Gal. 3:10-13; 1 Peter 2:24)*
- 3) The apostles also preached Jesus' exaltation to the \_\_\_\_\_ position of divine authority and ability as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 31)
- 4) Besides the person and work of Christ, the apostles also proclaimed the \_\_\_\_\_ to the gospel, namely, \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 24:47) and the \_\_\_\_\_, namely, \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 31)
  - *Why does v. 32 mean about the Holy Spirit being given to "those who obey Him"? (Rom. 10:16-17; 2 Thess. 1:8-10; 1 Peter 1:22-25; 2:6-8; 4:19)*

c) The Sanhedrin's Response to the Apostles (5:33-40)

- 1) The council reacted to the apostles with \_\_\_\_\_ and plotted to \_\_\_\_\_ them. (v. 33; 7:54)
- 2) A respected Pharisee named Gamaliel intervened and counseled the Sanhedrin to leave the apostles \_\_\_\_\_, so they \_\_\_\_\_ them and commanded them again not to \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus. (vv. 34-40)

d) The Apostles' Response to Persecution (5:41-42)

- 1) The apostles responded to this persecution with a divine perspective, \_\_\_\_\_ that they were counted \_\_\_\_\_ to suffer \_\_\_\_\_ for the name of Jesus. (v. 41)
- 2) The apostles also \_\_\_\_\_ proclaiming Jesus Christ publicly and privately. (v. 42)
  - *What can we learn from all this?*