

PERSECUTION & THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL TO JUDEA & SAMARIA (Acts 8:1-25)

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

II. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, & SYRIA (8-12)

A. The WITNESS of PHILIP to the SAMARITANS & an ETHIOPIAN (8)

1. Persecution & the Gospel Spreads to Judea & Samaria (8:1-25)

a) The Ravaging & Scattering of the Jerusalem Church (8:1-4)

1) After Stephen's martyrdom, the _____ in Jerusalem suffered _____
_____ and was scattered to the regions of Judea and Samaria. (v. 1)

- *What can we learn from the "devout men" who buried Stephen? (v. 2)*

2) A chief antagonist in the attempted destruction of the Jerusalem church was _____,
who later became the _____. (v. 3)

- *How did Saul persecute the church? (v. 3; 22:4-5; 26:9-11)*
- *What is ironic about Saul's persecution and later ministry? (9:15-16)*

3) The result of this intense persecution was not only the scattering of the church but the
_____ of the _____. (v. 4)

- *What can we learn from all this about persecution?*

b) The Receiving of the Gospel by the Samaritans (8:5-13)

1) One of the seven deacons from the Jerusalem church named _____ (6:5) preached
_____ to the _____. (v. 5)

- *What does this say about the focus of our evangelistic message?*

- *What was the relationship like between the Jews & Samaritans?*
- *What was the response of the Samaritans and the result of all this? (vv. 6-8)*

2) Included among those Samaritans who _____ Philip's message about Jesus Christ and were _____ was a _____ named _____. (vv. 9-13)

- *Did this man really believe in Christ?*
- *What can we learn from this about the basis for assurance of salvation?*
- *What else can we learn from this about the grace of God?*

c) The Receiving of the Holy Spirit by the Samaritans (8:14-17)

1) Peter and John were sent to give apostolic _____ and _____ of the Samaritan believers into the church, resulting in the Samaritans receiving the _____ and the _____ of the early church being preserved. (vv. 14-17)

- *Why does this not support "confirmation" or a so-called second blessing?*

2) The Book of Acts documents a _____ period in the early church when believers weren't all immediately _____ and permanently _____ by the Holy Spirit as occurred later with the salvation of the Gentiles (Acts 10:43-48) and all believers later and throughout church history (1 Cor. 12:12-13; Gal. 3:2-5; Eph. 1:13).

d) The Rebuke of Peter to Simon the Sorcerer (8:18-25)

1) Peter rebuked Simon for his greed and pride, warning him about _____ with his money, which speaks of God's maximum _____, _____ judgment of chastening a hardened, sinning believer. (vv. 18-20; 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 11:30-32; Heb. 12:5-11; 1 John 5:16-17)

2) For Simon to live in fellowship with God as child of God, Peter told him to _____ of his wickedness and _____ that God might _____ him and let him live. (vv. 22-24; 2 Cor. 7:9-10; 12:21)

- *What can we learn from this?*
- *How does this section conclude?*