Scripture: Acts 6:1-15

Sermon: <u>Stephen: A Servant of the Lord!</u> 3 March 2013

I. GOOD THINGS IN A SMALL PACKAGE (Acts 6:1-8f)

II. PROFILES IN EVANGELISM FROM THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH (The Book of Acts)

- **A. EXPECT GROWING PAINS** (6:1; see 4:1f; 5:1f; 6:8f; etc.; external & internal)
- **B. MAKE YOUR NEEDS KNOWN** (6:1; see Jms.4:2b; Lk.11:9*f*,11; 1Cor.4:15; see *DCG*, c.2, para.11)
- **C. FOLLOW YOUR LEADERS IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS & OPPORTUNITIES** (6:2-7; see 1Pt.1:1; 5:1*f*; 1Th.5:12*f*; 1Tm.3:1*f*; 5:17; Heb.13:17)
 - 1. lead in a timely and decisive manner (2f. see Dt.31:7,23; 2Tm.1:7; Rev.21:8; see Mt.6:34)
 - 2. come to congregational meetings (2a; see 1Cor.11:18)
 - 3. recognize the limitations of the calling of your teachers (2b; Acts 2:42; see 1Cor.12:28f,4f)
 - 4. recognize importance of meeting pressing needs in congregation (3f; 1Tm.3:13; see Acts 6:8&10; 3:6f&11f; Mk.1:39,etc. /Phil.1:1; Tt.1:5 & 3:14; 1Pt.4:10&11 /Dt.10:18; 24:19f; Jms.1:27; 2:14; 1Tm.5:3f,16; Heb.13:2)
 - 5. participate in the selection of those to whom other work is delegated (3; see Dt.1:13f)
 - 6. choose those who have the gifts & graces of the Spirit (3,5; see 4:31; Lk.4:18; Ex.35:31; Jdgs.3:10,etc.; 1Sam.16:13; Dt.17:15; see 1Tm.3:1f,8f; Tt.1:5f; Gal.5:22f)
 - 7. encourage your teachers to devote themselves to prayer and serving the word (4; 2:42; see Ezr.7:10; 10:4; 1Tm.4:12f; 5:17; Eph.4:11f)
 - 8. approve the words and follow the instructions of your leaders (5; see 1Th.5:12f; Heb.13:17)
 - 9. recognize the ministry of those willing to serve, chosen by the congregation and set apart by the Elders (5,6; see 1Tm.3:1; 1Th.5:12)
 - 10. expect good results in extension and conversions through all these things (7,1; see Eph.4:11f,16)
- **D. USE YOUR GIFTS, ALL YOUR GIFTS & NOTHING BUT YOUR GIFTS** (8*f*,3*f*; see 2,4; see 1Cor.12:7; 1Pt.4:10,11; see Acts 2:29; Jer.1:1; but 2Chr.26:18; Zech.6:13; Ps.110:1f; see 1Pt.1:1; 5:1; 1Tm.5:17)

III. LESSONS FOR Y/OUR THINKING AND DOING

- A. COME TO FAITH IN CHRIST BY HEARING THE WORD! (2,4; 5:42; see Rom.10:17; 2Tm.3:14f)
- **B. TURN FROM YOUR SINS TO HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS BY HIS GRACE & POWER!** (7; see 2:38; 3:26; 4:12; 26:18; Lk.11:13)
- C. GROW IN FAITH THROUGH ALL THE MEANS OF GRACE! (2,4; 2:42; 1Pt.2:2; 2Tm.3:14f; Heb.5:12f)
- D. TELL OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT ALL THESE THINGS SO THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW CHRIST WITH YOU! (7; 8:4; Mt.28:18f; 1Cor.11:1f; see Acts 4:29-31; Lk.11:13)
- E. IDENTIFY, EQUIP & USE YOUR GIFTS FOR THE BUILDING UP OF YOUR EVANGELIZING CHURCH! (1-8; see Eph.4:11-16; 1Cor.12:4ff; 1Pt.4:10,11)
- F. FOCUS ON YOUR CALLING/S AND DON'T GET DISTRACTED BY OTHER THINGS NO MATTER HOW GOOD THEY ARE IN THEMSELVES! (2,4; see 1Cor.12:15f)
- G. STAY IN YOUR LANE! (2f, see Ex.31:1f; Dt.1:13f; 2Kngs.22:7; see 2Kngs.15:1f; 2Cor.10:13f)
- H. BE PREPARE FOR A CURIOUS REWARD! (8f; 5:41; 1Pt.4:12f; see 2Cor.11:23f; 2Tm.3:10f; Rom.8:17)

Discussion questions:

Brethren, what shall WE do? (see Acts 2:37f)