

Christ is Proclaimed in Samaria (Acts 8:1b-8)

Last week we considered the first martyr of the early church, Stephen.

- i. The face of unbelief*
- ii. The doorway to heaven*
- iii. Christlikeness*
- iv. The sleep of death*

Persecution breaks out on the church and Christians spread the Gospel

I. The Great Persecution

Devout men *buried* Stephen; Saul went *house to house arresting believers* (8:3)

Christians were scattered throughout: regions of Judea, Samaria

The apostles remained in Jerusalem – while many left Jerusalem

II. Evangelism: Won by One

V.4 those who were scattered went everywhere preaching: Word/Gospel

Philip went to Samaria and “proclaimed to them Christ” (v.5)

III. Philip and Pentecost Revisited

Philip preached Christ (v.5) things regarding: kingdom & Jesus Christ (12)

God used Philip mightily: ministry of healings and demonic deliverances

IV. Much Joy

Deliberate contrast: Jerusalem: being ravaged & Samaria: great joy in city

Trials of one city (Jerusalem) had brought blessing to another (Samaria)

The blood of the martyrs is indeed the seed of the church (Tertullian)