

The Church Scattered

Acts 8:1-4

Introduction

“you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

John 3:8

The Church Set On Fire

What caused the fire?

Answer: The appearance of Truth who is Jesus Christ, the Word sent from God.

When the Truth of God appears, one of two responses occur:

- 1) humble acceptance and submission, or
- 2) brazen rejection and rebellion.

John 15:18-20

John 16:2-3

John 17:9, 11-15, 20

‘Blind’ Saul of Tarsus (vv’s 1a, 3)

“ravaging” ‘to disgrace as by insult, treat with indignity, injure, destroy.’

Saul perceived the new gospel of grace through faith in Christ as a serious threat to religious tradition.

Acts 22:3-4; 17-20

A Vision of Jesus Christ

The vision was there for Stephen. Why didn’t Saul see it?

Because he, like other unbelievers, need to be *made able* to see Christ.

Acts 22:12-16

John 16:16-19

Those who have Christ have the Spirit. And those who have the Spirit are able to see (spiritually) Christ.

Romans 8:9-11

“the Spirit of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:19.

“the Spirit of Christ” 1 Peter 1:11.

Jesus is made visible (spiritually) to believers who have been made able to see Him and hear Him via the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)!

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

All those believers who were “scattered” preached the Gospel.

Matthew 28:19-20

Hebrews 10:32-35

What has greatest value to us? What is it that has the strongest hold on our hearts?

God uses times of trial and affliction, times of great loss, to take inventory of our hearts.

Ask yourself: *What is so utterly important to me that if I were to lose it or them I would be devastated?*

Hebrews 10:36-39

Is this us?

What is God’s purpose for His Church now scattered amid this dark cloud of deadly pestilence?