

Series "The Acts Of God"
"The Church On The Go"
Acts 8:1-25
Study-14

Acts 8:1-8

Romans 11:33

Acts 8 – Describes The Expansion of The Church:

Acts 1:8

Acts 1-7 – Witness to Jerusalem – "and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,"

Acts 8-12 – Witness to Judea and Samaria – "and in all Judea and Samaria,"

1. The Center of activity moves from Jerusalem to Antioch Syria.
2. The Message goes from the Jews to the Samaritans and then to Gentiles.
3. Peter's prominence fades as Paul becomes the leader.
4. The "Gospel of the Kingdom" is replaced by the "Gospel of the Grace of God."

1. Verses 1-3 – Persecution:

2. Verses 4-8 – Preaching:

3. Verses 9-25 – Pretending:

1. Verses 1-3 – Persecution:

Acts 8:1

Acts 6:8-7:60

Acts 7:58

Saul – "desired" or "Proud"; His name after his conversion was changed to Paul – "Small"

He was born in Tarsus in Cilicia – Acts 22:3 A Roman Citizen Acts 16:37; 22:25-28. "Hebrew of the Hebrews" 2 Cor. 11:22; Phil. 3:5

The "Son of a Pharisee" Acts 23:6; He became a devoted Pharisee Acts 26:4-5; Phil. 3:5; He was educated in Jerusalem by Gamaliel Acts 22:3

Saul's zeal for the Law was displayed in his persecution of the church Gal. 1:13-14; Phil. 3:6.

Paul described himself as “exceedingly mad against them” Acts 26:11, 1 Tim 1:13

“and they were all scattered”; “To scatter like seed”

The Basic Lesson of Stephen’s Life – “Progress is impossible without sacrifice”

Acts 8:2-3

“ravaging the church,”; This speaks of “a wild animal tearing its prey, on the hunt.”

Acts 11:19

2. Verses 4-8 – Preaching:

Acts 8:4

“preaching the word.”; “to preach the Gospel, to evangelize”

Acts 8:5 Acts 6:5, Acts 21:8-9

2 Kings 17:24

Acts 8:6

Notice that they gave attention to what was said

Acts 8:7-8

“great persecution” (v. 1) became “great joy” (v. 8) Luke 19:6

3. Verses 9-25 – Pretending:

Acts 8:9

Simon, sometimes called “Simon Magus”; The word “Magus” taken from someone “great”; “The great one, like a god”

Magic – “sorcery” Means “magician, occult, and superstition”

2 Thess 2:9-10

2 Cor. 4:5

Acts 8:10

Matt 7:15

Acts 8:11

Ex 7:12

Acts 8:12-13

“believed”; “professed belief”

James 2:19

John 2:23-25

Acts 8:14 Luke 9:54

Acts 8:15

The Book of Acts is a Historical Narrative that contains both Descriptive and Prescriptive:

Jews – Acts 2; Samaritans – Acts 8; Gentiles – Acts 10; Ephesians – Acts 19

Acts 8:16

“keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 16:13-20)

Acts 8:17-18

“Simony” which means “the buying and selling of church offices or privileges”

Acts 8:19-20

Verse 20 – Peter said, “May your silver perish with you”

Verses 21-23 – He was not Converted: Acts 8:21

Acts 8:22

Verse 23 – Simon was in the bond of iniquity. Acts 8:23

Matt. 13:36-40

Acts 8:24-25

Application:

1. There is No Progress without Sacrifice: Stephens's death changed the Church:
2. The Gospel Message Alone is Sufficient to Transform the Sinful Heart:
3. God wants to Use Each of His Followers:
4. Simon teaches us the Danger of How Close a Person Can Come to Salvation and Still Not Be Converted: