

SERMON APPLICATION SHEET FOR:

Pastor Tony Felich

A Gospel Worth Dying For (Part 2)

Acts 6:8-8:4

September 23, 2018

Sermon Text	Sermon Notes
<p>Acts 7:54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. [55] But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. [56] And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." [57] But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. [58] Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. [59] And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." [60] And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.</p> <p>[8:1] And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. [2] Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. [3] But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. [4] Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.</p>	<p>The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way for people to be saved from their sins, so it is always worth preaching - even when the anger of the unrepentant rages against those preaching.</p> <p>I. The Sentence on Stephen (7:54-60)</p> <p>II. The Results of Stephen's martyrdom (8:1-4)</p> <p>Memory verse for 2018-</p> <p>Isaiah 64:1-2</p> <p>[1] Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—</p> <p>[2] as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!</p>

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Sermon Application Questions

1. Compare the demeanor of unbelievers (v.54) with that of a believer (v.55)

2. What contributed to the peace Stephen displayed during his trial and execution? What might we learn from this?

3. What about persecution serves to expand the church? How is this so?

4. Calvin saw the example of the Apostles staying in Jerusalem during the outbreak of persecution (8:1) as an example for pastors to never leave their flocks when such things arise. Discuss Calvin's statement about this:
"If both his flock and he have to encounter with the adversary, he is a treacherous forsaker of his office if he stand not stoutly to it even to the end. Private persons have greater liberty."

5. Discuss this statement about Saul from Derek Thomas:
"In his dying, Stephen sowed a seed in the heart of one of his accusers, Saul, that would reap a harvest greater than he would ever imagined."

Prayer Requests

This week our family will lift up requests for:

This week our family will praise the Lord for:

HFG Notes & Actions:

Next HFG meeting is: