

Witnesses to Christ
Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

Preaching Christ Everywhere
Lesson 7
Acts 8

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
February 14, 2016

The Great Work of Salvation

- ▶ The place for the nation Israel – (Romans 9:3-5)
 - Israel v. the Church
 - The structure and function of the believing community
- ▶ The place for the Law of Moses
 - Law v. Grace (Romans 6:14)
 - Law v. Faith (Galatians 3:1-5)
 - Flesh v. Spirit (Romans 8)
- ▶ An outpouring of the Holy Spirit
 - New – John 15:26; 16:7
 - Old – John 14:17; Acts 7:51

The Great Work of Salvation

- ▶ Universal proclamation of the Gospel
- ▶ The content of the Gospel unchanged
- ▶ Direct access to God through faith in Jesus Christ
- ▶ Work of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ The Messiah – Jesus Christ – the Cornerstone

Preaching Christ Everywhere (Acts 8)

- ▶ Witnesses in Jerusalem (1-7)
- ▶ Witnesses in Judea and Samaria (8-12)
- ▶ Witnesses to the end of the earth (13-28)

Review

- ▶ The Great Commission by Jesus Christ (Acts 1)
- ▶ The coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)
- ▶ The Christian community – the Church
 - Fellowship
 - The Word (Scripture) and prayer
 - Holiness – Ananias and Sapphira
 - Evangelism
- ▶ Opposition – Jesus Christ and the resurrection

Preaching Christ Everywhere, Acts 8

- ▶ Persecution (8:1-4)
- ▶ Philip in Samaria (8:5-25)
- ▶ Philip in the desert (8:26-40)

Persecution (8:1-4)

► Saul's missionary program!

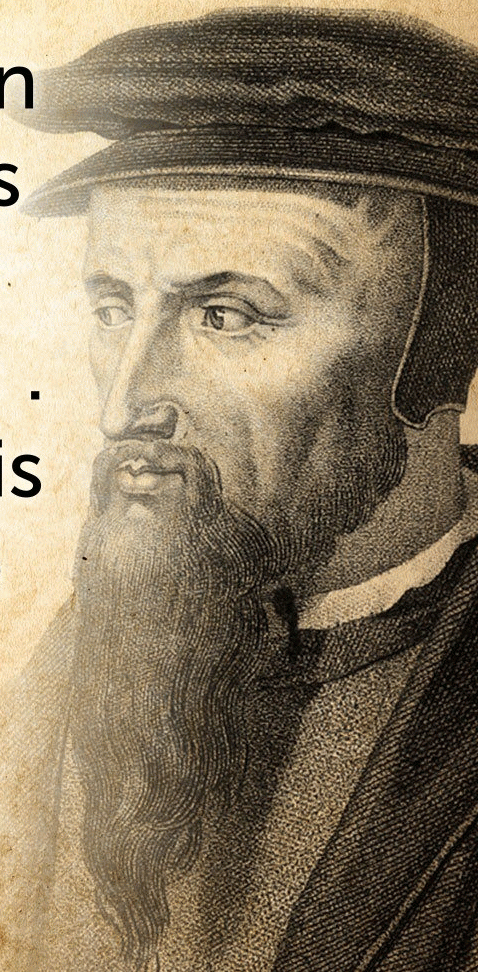
- Great persecution began that day
 - Saul – ravaging the church; entering private homes
 - Paul's testimony (26:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:13)
- All scattered – Judea and Samaria – except apostles
- Preaching the Word
- A pattern for the church
 - Seemingly unnecessary
 - Proof of faith (1 Peter 1:5-9, 13)
 - Share the sufferings of Christ (1 Peter 4:12-14, 19; 2:23; Acts 5:41)

► Burial of Stephen

- Devout men – pious Jews (2:5; 10:2, 7; 13:50; 22:12)

For the rite of burying doth appertain
unto the hope of the resurrection, as
it was ordained by God since the
beginning of the world to this end . . .
Whereby it appeareth that this duty is
profitable rather for those which are
alive than those which are dead

JOHN CALVIN



Philip's Ministry

- ▶ Proclaiming the Word (8:4, 25)
- ▶ Proclaiming Christ (8:5); name of Jesus Christ (8:12,35)
 - Person – Son of God
 - Work – death and resurrection
- ▶ Proclaiming good news about the Kingdom of God
 - Message of Jesus (Matthew 4:23)
 - Message of Acts (Acts 1:3; 28:30-31)
 - Redemption of the Universe – New heaven and earth
 - Personal salvation (John 3:3)
 - Davidic throne (Luke 1:32)
 - An eternal holy kingdom (Matt 6:33; 2 Peter 3:13-14; Romans 14:17)
- ▶ Preaching the Kingdom and the name of Jesus – The gospel

“Luke gives us a brief summary of Philip’s gospel preaching; it centered in the kingdom and in the Name. It does so to this day. The Name is the great door that admits into the kingdom.”

R. C. H. LENSKI

Philip in Samaria (8:5-25)

- ▶ They “heard and saw” (8:6)
- ▶ Demon possession
- ▶ Paralysis; lameness – incurable problems
- ▶ Much rejoicing – fruit of the Spirit

Simon

- ▶ He is called Simon Magus and plays a great role in the traditions of the second and the third centuries. None of these reports are worthy of much attention although some commentaries give them space.
Lenski, R. C. H. (1864-1936)
- ▶ Practicing magic –the Great Power of God
- ▶ Many believed and were baptized, including Simon
- ▶ He continued on with Philip – amazed at miracles

Peter and John Sent (8:14-24)

- ▶ Apostolic authority (14:25-28; 15:2-4)
- ▶ The gift of the Holy Spirit (2:38-39)
- ▶ Laying on of hands (8:15-17)
- ▶ Speaking in tongues
 - Acts 2:3, 4, 11; 10:46; 19:6
 - 1 Corinthians 12-14
- ▶ No mention of tongues (2:41; 4:4; 8:36-39)

Simon and the Gift of the Holy Spirit

- ▶ Simon's observation
- ▶ Simony
- ▶ Peter's severe rebuke:
 - May your silver perish with you
 - You have no part or portion in this matter
 - Your heart is not right before God
 - Gall of bitterness and bondage of iniquity
- ▶ Peter's call to repent for forgiveness
- ▶ Simon asks for prayer
- ▶ An unanswered question – saved or not saved?

Philip in the Desert (8:26-40)

- ▶ The Lord of the harvest – the angel and the Spirit
- ▶ The Ethiopian – “scorched face”
- ▶ Candace – Queen of Kush (Sudan)
- ▶ Proselyte of the gate
- ▶ Returning from Jerusalem and perplexed by Isaiah 53
- ▶ Philip preached Jesus to him
- ▶ The eunuch requests baptism
- ▶ Eunuch continues journey rejoicing

Preaching Christ Everywhere, Acts 8

- ▶ The ways of God
- ▶ Preaching the Word – Preach Christ