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Bishop Victor T. Curry, Founding Senior Pastor

Elder James G. Cuthbertson, Instructor

jcuthbertson@nbbcmiami.org

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Book of Acts

“Can I Get A Witness-The Gospel To The Ends Of The Earth”

Preaching During Persecution

Acts 8:1-8

1. The Persecution of the Church (1-3)

1. And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

And Saul was consenting unto his death—The word seems carefully chosen to convey the fact that he did not himself take part in the stoning but contented himself with guiding and directing the murder.

The religious leaders were trying to stop the growth of Christianity, by persecuting the church.

Under persecution the leaders stayed.

A. Burial of Stephan

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

Carried-“to prepare a dead body for burial,”

B. Brutality of Saul

3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Havock/ began to destroy - to treat shamefully or with injury, to ravage, devastate, ruin.

The tense in the Greek implies continuous action, and so indicates the severity of the persecution.

AMP: But Saul began ravaging the church [and assaulting believers]

2. The Preaching (Evangelize) of the People (4)

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

Their persecution was for the furtherance and spread of the Gospel.

Greek: "evangelizing," to announce the glad tidings of the Messiah, or of the kingdom of God, or of eternal salvation offered through Christ.

They were being persecuted, but they still preached the word of God.

3. The Preaching of Phillip (5-8)

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Preached/ proclaimed The word translated "preach" here is not what is used in the previous verse. This denotes to "proclaim as a crier,"

Kēryssō-To proclaim, herald, preach.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

gave heed/gave their undivided attention- to hold the mind towards, i.e. Pay attention to, apply oneself to, adhere to. Embrace

The original words imply that crowds of people gave their faith and consent to the new teaching.

AMP: The crowds gathered and were paying close attention to everything Philip said, as they heard [the message] and saw the [miraculous] signs which he was doing [validating his message]

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.