

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quote** from *Church History*: “The First Commandment, ‘Thou shalt have no other gods before Me’: My friend, are you ready to be weighed against this Commandment? Have you fulfilled, or are you willing to fulfill all the requirements of this Law? Put it into one of the scales, and step into the other. Is your heart set upon God alone? Have you no other God? Do you love Him above father or mother, the wife of your bosom, your children, home or land, wealth or pleasure? If men were true to this commandment, obedience to the remaining nine would follow naturally. It is because they are unsound in this that they break the others.”

- D.L. Moody

*(1837-1899, American preacher, evangelist and writer)*

**Scriptures for Today:** Acts 6:1-15      The Believer’s Priorities – prayer and the ministry of the word!

**NOTES****PRINCIPLES**

1. Seven men were **chosen** to allow the leaders to **focus** on the \_\_\_\_\_ things. 6:1-7

- ✓ It was **not good** for them to **leave the word of God** and serve tables...  
Exodus 18:17-26; Deuteronomy 1:9-14; 1 Timothy 3:8-16; Philippians 1:1
- ✓ The men were to be of **honest report** and **full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom**...  
Acts 1:21; 16:2; 22:12; Numbers 11:16; Deuteronomy 1:13; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24; 1 Timothy 3:7, 8, 10; Genesis 41:38, 39; Isaiah 11:2-5; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:17, 18
- ✓ The two **priorities** for the **church** leaders were **prayer** and **the ministry of the word**...  
*Prayer* – Romans 1:9; Ephesians 1:15-17; 3:14-21; Philippians 1:4, 9-11; Colossians 1:9-13  
*The ministry of the Word* – Acts 2:42; 20:19-31; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 9:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Colossians 4:17; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 4:2
- ✓ We see the **first mention** in Acts of someone from **Antioch**, Syria and it is **positive**...  
Acts 11:19, 20, 22, 26, 27; 13:1
- ✓ The **increase** of the **word of God** caused **disciples to multiply** and **many got saved**...  
*The word of God increased* – Acts 12:24; 19:20; Colossians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:9; John 12:42  
*Obedience to the faith* – Romans 1:5; 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 5:9; 11:8

**NOTE** May we never, ever forget **the main things** – prayer and the ministry of the word of God!! Make no mistake about it; it was not good for the church leaders to be overwhelmed with the daily service and needs of the church. They needed to be praying and ministering the word of God to people – both lost and saved. When they did this, the word of God increased!! When the word of God increased, the number of disciples multiplied **greatly**. And, when the number of disciples multiplied greatly, a great company of religious **priests** got saved (and they were hard to reach)!! Keep the main things the main things in **your life**, and God will be able to use you to multiply disciples and lead many to the cross.

2. Lost **religious** people \_\_\_\_\_ with Stephen and **hired evil men** to stop him. 6:8-15

- ✓ We see the **first mention** in Acts of someone from **Alexandria**, Egypt and it is **negative...**  
Acts 18:24 (false teaching from there); 27:6 (ship from there to Rome); 28:11
- ✓ They **could not resist** the **wisdom** and the **spirit** by which Stephen spoke...  
Matthew 7:29; John 7:46; Luke 4:22; 12:11-12; 21:15; Acts 4:13; Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:17
- ✓ They said Stephen **spoke blasphemous** words **against Moses and God...**  
*Ten Commandments* – Exodus 20:1-21; Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22; 7:37
- ✓ They said Stephen **spoke blasphemous** words **against** this **holy place** and **the law...**  
Mark 14:58; Mark 10:17-27; Romans 3:19-20; 7:7; 1 John 3:4; James 2:8-12; Acts 7:53
- ✓ They said Stephen **spoke** about **Jesus coming back** to **destroy this place...**  
Matthew 13:39-43; 16:27; 25:31; 26:64; Acts 1:11; 2 Thess 1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Rev 1:7; 19:11-21
- ✓ They said Stephen **spoke** about **Jesus** changing **the customs delivered by Moses...**  
Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:1-29; 4:3-5; Hebrews 7:11-19; 8:6-13; 9:9-11; 10:1-18
- ✓ This entire chapter is all about Stephen's testimony; he **had not even spoken yet...**  
"full of faith and of the Holy Ghost" Acts 6:5, 8; Matthew 5:16; Acts 1:8; Philippians 1:27; Jude 3

**NOTE** Oh Christian!! How important it is for you to grasp this message today and to get Stephen's message inside of you! The lost, so-called "religious" people that were **opposed** to God, and **opposed** to His Son, and **opposed** to His gospel **were not able to resist** the **wisdom** and the **spirit** by which Stephen spoke!! That is because He was preaching **the same thing the Holy Spirit was preaching to them at the same time** according to John 16:8-11!! Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit came, He would reprove the world of **sin, righteousness and judgment to come!!** That was Stephen's message – **you have broken God's Law** and **you are guilty** of the blood of the Son of God and **judgment and eternal punishment in hell** is coming to you either **when you die** or **when Jesus comes back!!** **Repent and trust the Savior** before you die and it is too late!!! That was also the message of Enoch – the 7<sup>th</sup> from Adam! And the message of Jesus! And the message of John! And the message of Peter! And the message of James! And the message of Jude! And it was most assuredly the message of Paul! That is also the message of all those in the church that have been bought by the blood of Christ! And, it is to be **your message** and mine!!!

**PRACTICES**

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**. What did the **God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible** that you **must believe** before you sleep tonight?
  - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible** today that you must **immediately obey** in your life?
  - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

\*\* **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** – *Upcoming Events* \*\*

1. **How to Study the Bible** Wednesdays at 7-8pm Children's ministry and youth group teaching time also during this time.
2. **Prayer Meeting** Wednesdays at 6:30pm We must be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13)
3. **Open House** The month of October is a "**Grand Opening**" to the community – invite others to check us out for free. ☺