

## I. Expect To See The Gospel Attacked (1-3)

- A. An extreme attack (1a) - **“And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem...”**
- B. A painful attack (1b-2) - **“...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.”**
- C. A thorough attack (3) - **“But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.”**

## II. Expect To See The Gospel Advanced (4-8)

- A. Through verbal witness (4-5) - **“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.”**
- B. Through individual acceptance (6) - **“The crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.”**
- C. Through supernatural power (7-8) - **“Unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city.**

## III. We See The Gospel Accepted (12-17)

- A. The objectivity of the message (12) - **“...when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”**
- B. The openness of the offer (13) - **Simon, an occultist was given opportunity to receive Christ; Samaritans were given the same.**
- C. The validation of the transaction (14-17) - **As salvation moved from Jews to include Samaritans, the validating evidence was the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.**

## IV. We See The Gospel Adjusted (9-13, 18-23)

- A. Simon's corrupt past (9-11) - **“There was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great...for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.”**
- B. Simon's casual testimony (13) - **“Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.”**
- C. Simon's counterfeit faith (18-23)
  - 1. His true desire (18-19) - **POWER**
  - 2. His true destination (20) - **Peter states that Simon and his money-loving were headed for destruction**
  - 3. His core issue (21,23) - **Simon's heart was: not right before God, unrepentant, wicked, bitter, still bound in iniquity.**
  - 4. His humbling choice (22) - **“Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.”**