**The Stoning of Stephen**

*Acts 6:8 – 8:1*

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by Christ**

With his faith set upon the LORD Jesus, Stephen was empowered by the Holy Spirit to the work God placed before him. It is God’s grace and power working through His people that enables anyone to serve.

*1 Corinthians 15:10 ~ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ**

After one of the single greatest sermons on the person of Christ, Stephen declared the guilt of all who reject the truth of Jesus. How far are we willing to go in proclaiming the truth of Christ?

*Mark 13:11 ~ “And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”*

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Christ**

With the grace that led him to speak, with the power that gave him courage, Stephen faced his own execution with the same faith that saved him. But such a death does not happen in isolation. It was a catalyst to the proclamation of God’s word to the world.

*Philippians 1:20 ~ …as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.*

**Acts 8:1-4**

**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... Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.**

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**Additional Scripture References**

*(And Rabbit Trails Bible Study)*

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

*But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

**Acts 4:33**

*And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.*

**Ephesians 3:7**

*Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.*

**Colossians 1:28**

*Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.*

**Acts 28:30-31**

*He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*

**1 Corinthians 1:23**

*...but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles.*

**Mark 13:13**

*And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

**Matthew 5:11**

*“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”*

**John 16:2**

*They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.*