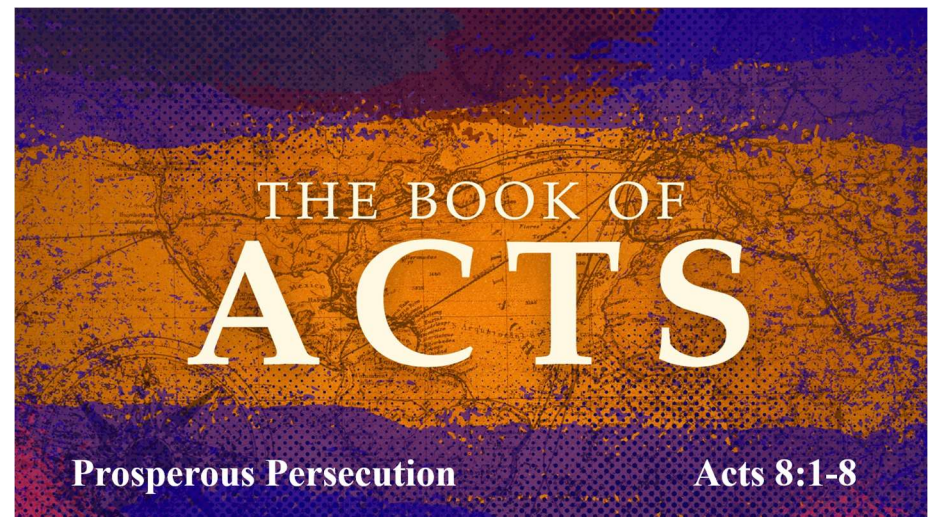


Vs. 8 – The End Result Was Joy

1. Why do you think Luke points out that the result of persecution was **joy**?
2. Stephen's death looked tragic, but it fueled the spread of the gospel. Can you think of times in your life where suffering ended up producing something good?
3. What is one area of pain, loss, or discomfort right now where you need to trust that God can bring joy in the end?
4. How does Romans 8:18 give us hope when we face trials, suffering, or rejection?

Sermon Discussion Points for



Calvary Chapel Groups

Sunday, December 14, 2025

CALVARY
— O X N A R D —

First

Read Acts 8:1-8

After boldly sharing the gospel, Stephen became the first Christian martyr in the New Testament. What followed was great persecution, led by Saul against the believers in Jerusalem, causing them to flee and scatter. What seemed like defeat was the very thing God used to spread the gospel.

Vs. 1-3 – Persecution Scattered the Believers

1. Why do you think God sometimes removes comfort from our lives to move us into His calling?
2. What's the difference between **comfort** and **calling**? Which one do you think currently wins out in your life?
3. How does Saul's hostility toward the church highlight that following Jesus will sometimes bring opposition?
4. 2 Timothy 3:12 says all who desire to live a godly life will face persecution. What forms might persecution take for a Christian today?
5. What might it look like for God to "scatter" you for His purposes in your season of life? Where might He be trying to place you?

Vs. 4-7 – As They Scattered, So Did the Gospel

1. Why do you think persecution made the gospel spread instead of shutting it down?
2. Philip had just seen Stephen killed for sharing the gospel. What does it say about Philip that he still preached boldly?
3. Jesus said the gospel would go to Samaria (Acts 1:8). Why is it significant that Samaritans—people Jews hated—were among the first to receive it?
4. How does the gospel tear down prejudices or racism in our own hearts?
5. What is one place God has already put you—school, job, team, friend group—where you can be a witness like Philip?

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