

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

9th-14th February 2015
Acts



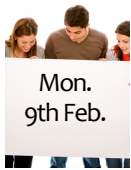
Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
Part of the RFCS - rpcscotland.org

Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Mon.
9th Feb.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Now those who were scattered
went about
preaching the word.
Acts 8:8

reading notes

Acts 7:51-53 - Call to Repentance

Stephen stands before the Sanhedrin accused of blaspheming God, Moses, and the temple. In his sermon, he has shown that he gives God honour and glory, he has shown that he holds Moses in the highest respect as a God-appointed deliverer, and he has talked about the temple's great history, but reminding them as he does so that God is greater than the temple.

Stephen now turns the tables on the Sanhedrin and makes some accusations against them. He accuses them of being stiff-necked, just like the Israelites who worshiped idols (Exodus 33:3,5). He says they have uncircumcised hearts and ears (Acts 7:51). Instead of acting like God's special people, chosen to love and obey Him, they are acting like the Gentiles in rejecting God. Just like their forefathers who rebelled against God and killed the prophets, they have rebelled against God and killed Jesus. Stephen is saying, the truth is I'm not the one who is blaspheming God, it's you, the Sanhedrin, who are doing it.

Stephen is confronting, head-on, the sin of these men who are the leaders of God's people. He does it boldly because the Holy Spirit gives him the strength to do so.

questions

1. What were the three accusations against Stephen?
2. Who did Stephen compare the Sanhedrin to?
3. Who are the ones really blaspheming God?

praise pray

Ps. 104:1-6

1. Pray that God will give us strength to confront sin.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.
14th Feb.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Now those who were scattered
went about
preaching the word.
Acts 8:8

reading

Acts 8:14-17 - Christ is Building His Church for all Peoples.

notes

When the apostles in Jerusalem hear about what is happening in Samaria, they send Peter and John to Samaria.

Up until this point, only Jews have received the Holy Spirit whom Jesus had promised He would send upon His return to Heaven (John 14:15-21). Now when the apostles arrive in Samaria, they pray that God will send His Holy Spirit to His people in the city. This shows that salvation is not only for the Jews, and the church will have people in it from all the nations of the world.

So the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the Samaritans is a sign from God to the Christians living in Samaria that He will care for and love them just as much as He does the Christians living in Jerusalem. Therefore they should not see themselves as second class citizens in the new church that the Lord Jesus is building.

God uses two apostles, Peter and John, who are leaders of the church in Jerusalem. This fact is a signal to the Christians in Jerusalem that the sending of the Holy Spirit to the Samaritan believers is God's work. Therefore the Jerusalem Christians shouldn't start thinking to themselves that they are best and look down on other Christians from a non-Jewish background.

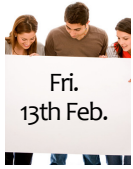
questions

1. Who did the apostles in Jerusalem send to Samaria?
2. What did the apostles pray the Samaritans would receive?
3. Why did God send the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans?

praise pray

Ps. 105:1-6

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
13th Feb.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Now those who were scattered
went about
preaching the word.
Acts 8:8

reading notes

Acts 8:9-13 - Two Kingdoms

The success of the gospel in Samaria doesn't mean that there isn't opposition. There is opposition, and it is very aggressive. The verses you have just read are all about a battle - a battle between two kingdoms for the souls of people.

Simon, a magician living in Samaria, is being used by Satan to amaze the people of Samaria with his powers and blind them to the truth about God. (The Bible is clear that magic and witchcraft are not from God and are therefore totally unacceptable to God - Deuteronomy 18:10-14; Galatians 5:20; Revelation 21:8; Revelation 22:15.)

As we saw yesterday when Philip arrives in Samaria he immediately begins to preach about Jesus and the power of the Kingdom of God.

So we have a confrontation set up between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. On the one hand you have Simon amazing the people with his magic and exercising the power of the kingdom of Satan. On the other hand you have Philip preaching the gospel and demonstrating the power of the kingdom of God through the miracles God is enabling him to do.

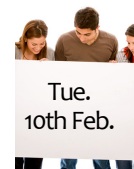
questions

1. Did the preaching of the gospel go without opposition?
2. Who was using Simon for his kingdom?
3. How did God demonstrate that His power is greater than Satan's?

praise pray

Ps. 104:25-31

1. Give thanks that God's kingdom is more powerful than Satan's.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
10th Feb.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Now those who were scattered
went about
preaching the word.
Acts 8:8

reading

Acts 7:51-60 - The First Martyr

notes

The men of the Sanhedrin are so furious by what Stephen has just said to them that they gnash their teeth at him, seething with anger. Stephen speaks again, but what he has to say doesn't calm them down. It only makes them even angrier.

God fills Stephen with the power of the Holy Spirit and enables him to look into heaven. Stephen sees the glory of God with Jesus standing at God's right hand. Note that he doesn't actually see God's face, for no one can see God's face and live (Exodus 33:20). What Stephen is seeing is God's glory, just as others have (Psalm 63:2; Isaiah 6:1; John 12:41).

With this magnificent sight filling his mind, Stephen can't help but cry out and describe it to the Sanhedrin. This is the last straw - there's just no way the Sanhedrin will allow someone to say that they can see Jesus at the right hand of God, because that makes Jesus, whom they killed, equal with God.

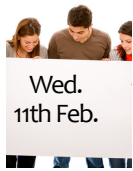
Covering their ears and shouting, they rush at Stephen grabbing him and dragging him outside. They leave their coats with Saul and begin stoning Stephen. Stephen prays and asks God to receive his spirit and forgive those who are killing him. Stephen dies and becomes the first man to lose his life for believing in Jesus and declaring that He is the promised Saviour.

questions

1. What was the Sanhedrin's response to Stephen's words?
 2. Who did Stephen see at God's right hand?
 3. How did the Sanhedrin react to what Stephen said he saw?
- Ps. 104:7-12

praise pray

1. Pray that God would enable us to be filled with a vision of His glory as we read His Word.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
11th Feb.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Now those who were scattered
went about
preaching the word.
Acts 8:8

reading Acts 8:1-4 - Persecution Begins

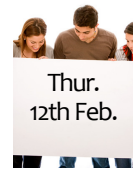
notes Just before returning to heaven Jesus tells His disciples that they will tell others about Him in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). At the time many of them probably wondered how that would happen. Now with the stoning of Stephen they are about to find out.

There is much sorrow in the church over the death of Stephen, but their sorrows are just beginning. After the Sanhedrin stones Stephen to death, they launch a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem. A gang led by Saul rampages through the city. No Christian home is safe. Christians are dragged from their homes and taken to prison just for being a Christian. Saul and his men are tearing the heart out of the church.

Many Christians leave Jerusalem. Driven out by the persecution they go to Judea and Samaria. What's amazing is that what happens to them in Jerusalem doesn't put them off. It isn't a case of 'we'd better not speak about Jesus here in case the same thing happens to us as happened in Jerusalem.' Wherever these Christians go they tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ, because they really believe in Him.

- questions**
1. Who led the persecution against the Christians?
 2. What happened to many Christians at this time in Jerusalem?
 3. Why was the persecution good for the church?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 104:13-18
1. Pray that we will seek and take opportunities to speak about Jesus.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
12th Feb.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Now those who were scattered
went about
preaching the word.
Acts 8:8

reading Acts 8:5-8 - Joy in Samaria

notes God uses persecution to send His people (believing Christians who are committed to the Lord Jesus Christ) out from Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria.

Preaching the gospel in Judea would be natural for the disciples. Judea is Jewish territory. The people living there would be familiar with the Word of God, the Old Testament, and therefore the idea of a coming Messiah, Saviour. Samaria, though, is a different situation altogether. The Jews have always hated the Samaritans, looking down on them as half-Jews. The Samaritans must have been amazed when Philip comes to their city and begins to preach about Christ there.

Philip (one of the seven men who is ordained as a deacon in Acts chapter 6) obviously understands that the gospel is not just for the Jews. It has to be taken throughout the whole world, just as Jesus says.

As well as preaching the gospel, Philip performs miracles to prove that what he is saying is from God. The result is fantastic, people listen and believe - there is great joy in the city.

You want joy in your life? Listen to God in His Word, take God at His Word, and be filled with joy as God blesses you.

- questions**
1. What forced the disciples to leave Jerusalem?
 2. What was the difference between Judea and Samaria?
 3. Who took the Gospel to Samaria?
 4. What was the result of people believing in Jesus?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 104:19-24
1. Pray that we will listen to and take God at His Word.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.