

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 10:00 AM

Message Series: Week 3 – The Acts of the Apostles

Message: The Church Persecuted and Scattered: Philip's Witness in Samaria and Simon the Sorcerer

Scriptures: Acts 8:1-25

A Brief Preview:

Luke picks up the Book of Acts, where he left off in his Gospel. Acts records the initial fulfillment of the Great Commission of Mathew 28:19-20 as it traces the beginning and growth of the New Testament church. The Book of Acts perfectly realized Christ's last words before His ascension. Luke outlines the contents concisely and effectively, Acts 1:8: "You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem [Chapters 1-7], and in all Judea and Samaria [8-12], and to the end of the earth [13-28]." Thus, Acts traces the rapid expansion of the Gospel, beginning in Jerusalem and spreading throughout the Roman Empire.

After Acts 6, the choosing of the seven, Stephen's seizing, his speech of the Sanhedrin, and his stoning and martyrdom, a new phase began in the history of the Church as God prepared her to take the Gospel to the whole world, Acts 1:8. Stephen's persecution and death caused the expansion of the Church out of Jerusalem. The chapter we are looking into today focuses on preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages and the conversion of an Ethiopian. We will focus on the persecution of the scattered church of God in Christ in Samaria, which involved Philip's witness and Judea and Samaria. Additionally, we learn what it means to have an unregenerate heart like Simon the Sorcerer. He was not a genuine duty-bound Christian; he didn't understand what it meant to follow Christ and do the ministry of God as Philip did.

Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. The Church Persecuted
 - B. **Illus.** Working to the End
- II. The people in Samaria received the Holy Spirit (8:14-17)
- III. Simon the Sorcerer's Misplaced Religion (8:18-24)
- IV. Philip's Witness (8:5-6, 12, 8, 7, 9-11, 13-14, and 15-17)
- V. The Apostles Share the Good News in Samaria (8:25)
- VI. Some Practical Implications – the Traps Relating to Money and Power (v.23)
- VII. Conclusion: Implications for us
 - A. Understanding baptism and repentance
 - B. Working to the End - Being a duty-bound genuine Christian