

Evangelism Part 10

¹And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.² And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.³ As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.⁴ Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. (Acts 8:1-4 KJV)

Spreading the Word of God in every place and in every time is the task that we do not put aside or excuse ourselves in not performing it. Acts 8 supply us with motivation and inspiration to lead us to evangelize even we are passing through hardship and in crisis.

¹And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. Acts 7 narrate the sermon of Stephan who was one of the seven, and it narrates his death when the vehement Jews stoned him. Stephan was an important worker of the church being killed, so here the church is losing workers. ***And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem;*** So here in addition to the death of Stephan, every member of the church in Jerusalem is facing trouble and got persecuted. That had caused them to be scattered throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria. Only the apostles left in Jerusalem but the rest of the church members scattered.

It is so amazing to know that the whole church scattered and only the apostles remained. The persecution had reached houses and sure the apostles' houses were known, but inspite of that they remained intact and did not scatter. God allowed the whole church to be scattered and kept the apostles in Jerusalem. That is His doing to allow God's Word to be preached by the new workers and the new believers who had not yet did their part in spreading His Word as the apostles did.

²And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. The Word of God speaks about devout men. Devout men are desired and called by God. Among them God's work take place; they witness it (As Simeon witnessing the newly born Jesus in the temple, ***Luke 2:25***, and devout Jews witnessed the apostles speaking in tongues in the day of Pentecost, ***Acts 2:5***), they welcome it (As Cornelius sent for Peter and received Christ and the Holy Spirit, ***Acts 10:2, 7***) they take part in it (Ananias baptized Saul ***Acts 22:12***) and willing to receive persecution for it (As the devout men who buried Stephen ***Acts 8:2***).

God fearing devout men, their hearts and minds wear wounded with pain, seeing Stephen body dead, wounded, bruised and crushed with the stones, knowing him as man of faith with miracles and wonders and now he is dead and even disfigured, added more to their pain and sorrow, ***and made great lamentation over him.*** The cruel death of Stephan, and the ongoing persecution on the church was injustice to those men who were devout men that added to their lamentation over Stephan. But that also was a promotional factor for them to preach and spread God's word to other new far places.

³As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Saul at that stage was one of the prominent enemies for the church. He was not only harmful and dangerous but he made havoc for the church. The harmful impact that Saul did against the church was not only attaching the believer, speaking against them, harming them, assassinating them, imprisoned them, but further than that, he was reaching them to their houses, where they were living with their families. Houses were the places where the early church was gathering (***Acts 2:46***) Families form the basic unit of the church and makes the church grow. With this action of Saul he accelerated the destruction that had happened to the church. In entering the houses of the church members their families were destroyed and the places of worship and gathering for the church were closed. That is why it says ***"and they were all scattered abroad."***(***Acts 8:1***)

⁴Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. When it says ***Therefore they that were scattered abroad*** this incline that they had lost their houses and their belonging that were in Jerusalem. ***Hebrews 10:32-34 KJV*** describes clearly what they passed through, ***"³²But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;³³Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.³⁴For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance."***

With all what had happened with havoc to the church and scattering of all the brethren, except the apostle who remain at Jerusalem, the church still stood the test and the contest and with the help of God wrought victory and regain its position in the world to impact once again the message of hope to the lost souls. The church once again revived and revival started from inside with the Holy Spirit that made His dwelling in the life of the disciples who stood the ground and fought the good fight when ***they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.*** Those who scattered they reached out other places in Judaea and Samaria.

Persecution would be encased and overcome when the Word of God once again preached and spread. The moment that you face persecution think about how to spread His Word and that is the way for you of how you will overcome. ***"³⁵Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.³⁶For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.³⁷For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.³⁸Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.³⁹But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."*** (***Hebrews 10:35-39 KJV***)

The Holy Spirit that is living in the life of the disciple enabled them to get into right thought that they have a better substance in heaven, ***"knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance."*** Such information that was born in their hearts and minds enabled them not to consider much what they had lost in Jerusalem from houses and other material possession. They concluded if they will continue to serve God, even in such hard situation and win new souls by spreading the word of God in the new places that they were scattered, then they would achieve the purpose of God and the will of God in allowing persecution to come upon them, and would confirm the receiving of their heavenly reward.


My dear and beloved: Consider the calling of God in your life and be willing to face persecution by spreading His Word further to new places and where you are relocated and moved. *“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” (Philippians 3:8 KJV)* Do not focus on the material loss that had happened to you because of God’s Word, but remember that winning new souls will guaranteed to you the heavenly reward that will surpass what you had lost from material things in this world. Commit yourself to the calling of God in your life to be a blessing to others in bringing them to Christ when you preach His Word to them, as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that encourages me and makes me think in a better way. Lord here am I, willing to spread your Word and tell others about the better life that you had promised to those who believe in you. Lord sustains me and provide for me to continue to serve you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

For more spiritual enrichment please visit our website at:

www.churchofgoduae.com

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

Vol. 18

Issue 28

Share the message with a friend.