

The First Great Persecution

8/13/23 (Acts 8:1-8)

I. _____ a Great Persecution - v.1-3

v.1 - _____ had a _____ and _____ approach to Christians (5:38-39), but not _____.

v.1, 3 - This shows Paul's natural _____ and _____. That he does this in good _____ (23:1) proves we must not only keep our _____, but also _____.

It was in the context of v.3 that _____ said he was the _____ of _____. (I Timothy 1:12-16)

v.2 - Christians _____ at the _____ of loved ones, but _____ as those with _____.

II. _____ Makes Great _____ of Persecution - v.4

God is _____ over _____ things, even _____. Perhaps the Church _____ began the next _____ of _____, but 8:4 is mentioned as a _____, _____-led way of _____.

v.4 - Saul did not know it, but persecution _____ the Church, _____ it to _____, and ultimately _____ the _____ of Jesus. _____ is more _____ to the Church than persecution.

In I Corinthians 9:17 Paul mentions 2 of his motivations for sharing the Gospel with others:

1. His _____ - just because he _____ to _____ people

2. Knowing that he has been _____ with a _____ he will give _____ of

III. Philip _____ The _____ to Samaria - v.5-8

v.5 - This Philip is the _____, not the _____. He is the _____ person in the Bible actually named as an _____. (Acts 21:8)

v.5 - The Amplified Bible writes "In the first century, the Jews and Samaritans _____ one _____. The Jews considered the Samaritans _____ and religious _____." The Southern Jews refused to _____ their _____ during their _____.

v.5 - Samaritans were a _____ people _____ with their own _____, _____, heritage, learned ways of _____, system of _____, _____ mountain, and expectation of a _____.

v.5 - Philip _____ on the _____ Jesus gave the _____ in _____.

v.6-7 - Christians are most effective when we _____ the _____ to _____ about _____ when in a different _____. Philip did this.

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