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CHURCH CLERK/SECRETARY

Wednesday September 20, 2017

12:00 – 1:00pm

Unilateral forgiveness: Genesis 50: :17 – 21; Luke 23: 33 – 34; Acts 7: 54 – 60

This week lesson will come from Acts 7: 54 – 60: Unilateral forgiveness part III

Stephen, one of the seven men chosen to minister to the needs of the neglected in the early church, became the first martyr of the Christian faith, but he certainly was not the last. Although falsely accused of blaspheming Moses and God, his unfair treatment and violent death would serve as an example to persecuted believers throughout the centuries who would face similar trials for upholding the name of Christ.

- I. False witnesses had been brought to testify before the council against Stephen (Ver. 54). See 6:9-14.
- II. Stephen at that moment was **full of the Holy Spirit**, which was evidenced by the fact that all he wanted to do was please God (Ver. 55).
- III. Stephen was consumed only with doing God's will by responding to this terrifying moment in the way that would glorify Him. (Ver. 55).
- IV. Glazing at death may be terrifying, but gazing past death to the presence of Jesus waiting for the believer is the hope that dissolve the fear (Ver. 56).
- V. We have the opportunity to glorify God in the face of death, boldly declaring our confidence in the fact that we will spend eternity in the presence of God
- VI. Because Jewish law did not allow an execution within the walls of the Holy City, the religious leaders took Stephen outside the City walls.
- VII. **Lord Jesus, receive my spirit:** Stephen's work was done. He was immediately ushered into the presence of Jesus (Ver. 59).
- VIII. Stephen Prayed to God that He would forgive those that had committed this awesome sin against him (ver.60).

Next week we will discuss unilateral forgiveness: Genesis 50: 17 -21; Luke 23: 33, 34 & Acts 7: 54 -60

**Forgiveness is the most rewarding thing that we can do for ourselves and one another.**