



THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

THIS WEEK AT THF

- ▶ **TUESDAY**
THF College - Bible Study/Games/Food
7:00pm-9:00pm - Meet @ Doug's House (4913 92nd St.)
- ▶ **WEDNESDAY**
THF Students - Worship & Hangouts
6:30pm-8:30pm
- ▶ **THURSDAY**
THF Men's Ministry - Bible Study & Fellowship
6:30am-7:30am

UPCOMING AT THF

- ▶ **AUGUST 10** - Family Swim Night
7:30-9:30pm

July 13, 2025

Please continue to check all
of our social media outlets
and our website for updates to
weekly activities and Sunday Services.
www.theheightsfellowship.org

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

July 6, 2025

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| BUDGET GIVING: | \$26,141.00 |
| BUDGET NEEDS: | \$19,346.00 |

YEAR TO DATE

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| BUDGET GIVING: | \$.484,923.59 |
| BUDGET NEEDS: | \$514,052.00 |

GOSSIPING THE GOSPEL



Acts 7 ends with the stoning death of Stephen and the end of 'life as we know it' in Jerusalem.

Acts 1-7

- Church centered in **JERUSALEM**
- The original **APOSTLES** are focal
- Nearly all believers are **JEWS**
- Acts 1:8 was a **VISION**

Acts 8-ff

- Church begins to **MOVE OUT**
- Focus is on **OTHERS** besides the 12
- **'OTHER THAN JEWS'** soon the majority
- Acts 1:8 was happening in **REAL TIME**

Acts 8 is where the church begins to **FULFILL ITS FULL MANDATE**

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Acts 8:4 nkj

PRINCIPLE:

The greater enemy of the church is **NOT** persecution; the greater enemy of the church is **COMPLACENCY**

PERSECUTION TOOK A WHOLE NEW FORM MORE EXTENSIVE

- Chap 1-7 – Sadducees v. **APOSTLES** ACTS 26:9-11
- Ch 8 Unleashed the **SAVAGERY** of SAUL (Pharisee) vv1,3 GAL 1:13
- Was directed at the **WHOLE CHURCH** ACTS 22:3-5
- Was literally from **HOUSE TO HOUSE** JOHN 16:2

As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. (v3)

'made havoc' – *elumaineto* – brutal cruelty; used of a carnivore **RIPPING APART** a body

⁹ I thought...that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

¹⁰ "And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ "And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities. Acts 26:9-11

¹³ For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure, and tried to destroy it; ¹⁴ and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. Galatians 1:13



THE PURGING PRODUCED SOMETHING UNIQUE

...the purging was **PRECIPITATED** by the persecution v1

...the persecution prompted the **PROLIFERATION** of the gospel

¹⁹ So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. Acts 11:19-20

...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. Acts 1:8

Principle:

Divine sovereignty ALWAYS trumps Satanic strategy

THE PREACHING

The persecution did not start the preaching - it **SPREAD** the preaching! v4

- For the most part, these were **AMATEUR** evangelists!

...a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, **except the apostles.**

MICHAEL GREEN QUOTE Acts 8:1

Two Kinds of Preaching -

sharing life - **LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM**

LIFE sharing - **Heralding the Gospel**

THEY 'GOSSIPED THE GOSPEL!'

- The gospel turned **ENEMIES** into **FRIENDS** vv4-8

THE SAMARITAN-JEWISH RIFT

- Dates back as far as the time of **SOLOMON**
- Can be traced through the **8TH** century BC
- Was at its core a spiritual issue regarding **MARRIAGE**
 - Went to a new level in the **6TH** century BC
- Carried down to the 1st century regarding **WORSHIP**

INSIGHTS AND APPLICATIONS -

- ① The reach of the church has nothing to do with the geography of the world and everything with the **GEOGRAPHY OF SOULS.**
- ② We ought to be sharing **life** and sharing **THE Life** more often
- ③ Don't fear the **hard** thing or the **negative** thing.
 - Persecution highlights the thing it seeks to stamp out
 - Persecution simplifies faith it tries to silence:
 - Persecution does not separate, but draws you closer to the Lord

