

# The Church Scattered

Acts 8:1-4

## Introduction

“you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

John 3:8

## The Church Set On Fire

What caused the fire?

Answer: The appearance of Truth who is Jesus Christ, the Word sent from God.

When the Truth of God appears, one of two responses occur:

- 1) humble acceptance and submission, or
- 2) brazen rejection and rebellion.

John 15:18-20

John 16:2-3

John 17:9, 11-15, 20

**‘Blind’ Saul of Tarsus** (vv’s 1a, 3)

“*ravaging*” ‘to disgrace as by insult, treat with indignity, injure, destroy.’

Saul perceived the new gospel of grace through faith in Christ as a serious threat to religious tradition.

Acts 22:3-4; 17-20

## A Vision of Jesus Christ

The vision was there for Stephen. Why didn’t Saul see it?

Because he, like other unbelievers, need to be *made able* to see Christ.

Acts 22:12-16

John 16:16-19

**Those who have Christ have the Spirit. And those who have the Spirit are able to see (spiritually) Christ.**

Romans 8:9-11

“the Spirit of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:19.

“the Spirit of Christ” 1 Peter 1:11.

Jesus is made visible (spiritually) to believers who have been made able to see Him and hear Him via the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)!

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

All those believers who were “scattered” preached the Gospel.

Matthew 28:19-20

Hebrews 10:32-35

What has greatest value to us? What is it that has the strongest hold on our hearts?

**God uses times of trial and affliction, times of great loss, to take inventory of our hearts.**

Ask yourself: *What is so utterly important to me that if I were to lose it or them I would be devastated?*

Hebrews 10:36-39

Is this us?

**What is God’s purpose for His Church now scattered amid this dark cloud of deadly pestilence?**