

INTRODUCTION

- A. “THE PENTECOSTAL PASSAGES” (Spirit & tongues; 4/24/13 Bible study; 8:12f with? 8:26-40)
- B. THE NECESSITY OF THE CONVICTION OF SIN IN EVANGELISM (3/13/13 sermon)
- C. THE INEVITABILITY OF SUFFERING IN EVANGELISM (today)

I. THE MARTYRDOM OF STEPHEN THE EVANGELIST (Acts 7:51-8:4)

- A. PROCLAMATION OF MAN’S SIN LEADS TO SUFFERING (7:51-53 & 54; see 2Cor.5:21a)
- B. PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST’S GLORY LEADS TO SUFFERING (7:55,56 & 57f; see 2Cor.5:21b)
- C. SUFFERING IN CHRIST (*parallels*)
 - 1. *the sons of Israel in sin* (7:51-53 // Mt.5:12; 23:13f;23f;29f)
 - 2. *the Son of Man in glory* (7:55,56 // Mt.26:64f)
 - 3. *commitment of the spirit to God* (7:59 // Lk.23:46(Ps.31:5); see Mt.22:37)
 - 4. *falling on knees in desperation* (7:60 // Lk.22:41f)
 - 5. *praying for the salvation of his persecutors* (7:60 // Lk.23:34; see Mt.22:39)
- D. SUFFERING FOR ENEMIES (7:60; see 9; 35f; see Lk.6:28,35; 9:23)

II. THE MARTYRDOM OF YOU THE EVANGELIST

- A. NOT GENERAL SUFFERING (Rom.8:18f; see Gen.3:13f)
- B. NOT SUFFERING FOR OWN SIN (1Pt.2:20; 3:17; 4:15; Rom.13:4)
- C. SUFFERING FOR SINS OF OTHERS IN REACTION TO EVANGELISM (7:54f)
 - 1. *necessity* (Acts 4:1f; 5:17f,33f,41; 7:54; 8:1; see Lk.9:23; 1Cor.15:31f; see Rom.6:3f; 8:17; Phil.1:9; 3:10; 1Pt.4:12f; 2Tm.2:8; 3:10f)
 - 2. *provision* (Acts 7:55; see 4:23f,29-31; 5:32f,41f; see Rom.8:14f,17; see Mt.17:2 with Heb.12:2; see Dan.3:25; Mt.28:30; see 2Tm.3:17,11; Rom.15:1f)
 - 3. *testimony* (1Pt.4:14; Mt.5:10-16; contrast Acts 10:44f; Mt.7:22f)
 - 4. *blessing* (Acts 7:55; Ps.119:71; Phil.3:10,11; 1Pt.4:1f)
- D. SUFFERING FOR SINNERS APPOINTED & ACCOMPLISHED & APPLIED (1Pt.1:19f & Heb.10:10 & Acts 7:54f; Col.1:24; Lk.6:27-36; see Phil.2:17; 2Tm.4:6)

III. SPIRIT-FILLED SUFFERING! (Acts 4:29-31; 5:32f; 6:3,5,8,10; 7:1f,51f,54f; 55)

- A. *IF YOU EVANGELIZE, YOU WILL SUFFER!* (Acts 4:1f; 5:33f; 7:54f; 2Tm.3:10f)
- B. *IF YOU AVOID SUFFERING, YOU WILL NEGLECT EVANGELISM!* (see Gal.6:12; 5:11)
- C. *WHEN YOU EVANGELIZE AND SUFFER FOR IT, GOD WILL BLESS YOU IN IT!* (Acts 7:55f; see Mt.28:20; 1Pt.4:12f)
- D. *PROCLAIM THE CROSS OF CHRIST BY SUFFERING IN EVANGELISM!* (see Lk.9:23 (6:22f,27f); Col.1:24; see Phil.2:17; 2Tm.4:6; see 1Cor.9:22f; 10:33)
- E. *TRUST CHRIST TO USE YOUR SUFFERING AND GIVE YOU FRUIT!* (Acts 7:60; see 9:1f)

Discussion questions:

Brethren, what shall we do? (see Acts 2:37f)