

## What Can Happen When the Gospel is Challenged?

A Study of Stephen's Confidence in Acts Chapter 6 and 7

### I. Background and Purpose of this Study

#### A. The Book of Acts

- 1) The church of Jesus Christ is new, and it is growing as the great commission is carried out.
- 2) The Holy Spirit is in every believer.
- 3) The book is historical and describes what happened, it does not dictate what must happen.

#### B. Confidence from God

- 1) The purpose of this study is to demonstrate that, as a believer in the present church age, we have a unique opportunity to speak of Jesus with confidence.
- 2) This confidence comes from God, it is established by God's word, and it is made available to God's people because of God's love.

### II. Key Observations From Acts 6-7

#### A. Observations about Stephen

- 1) Other believers recognized his good \_\_\_\_\_, and that he was a wise, spiritual man.
- 2) His name is \_\_\_\_\_, indicating that he was likely a Hellenistic Jew.
- 3) Though he was appointed to a service-oriented position, he still \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus Christ.
- 4) His wisdom was unbeatable, having its source in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) He \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures well.
- 6) He was not afraid of \_\_\_\_\_, even powerful men.
- 7) His final words resembled those of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8) He was not \_\_\_\_\_ to die.
- 9) He expected to be with the Lord upon \_\_\_\_\_ death.

#### B. Observations about Stephen's Enemies

- 1) They were not opposed to his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) They were \_\_\_\_\_ men.
- 3) They could not refute his message, so they sought to discredit the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) They gathered a large team of supporters to \_\_\_\_\_ the messenger.
- 5) They were \_\_\_\_\_ by his words, yet they decided to stop listening to him.
- 6) Some of them would, in the \_\_\_\_\_, be converted to the faith.

#### C. Observations about Stephen's Defense

- 1) He did not outright \_\_\_\_\_ the accusations against him.
- 2) He did not explain the \_\_\_\_\_ directly in his address to the Council.
- 3) He showed \_\_\_\_\_ to his antagonistic audience.
- 4) He revealed the \_\_\_\_\_ about the matters of God's temple, and the Law, and Moses.
- 5) Whereas he was falsely accused, he rightly \_\_\_\_\_ the Jewish leaders of rejecting God's Man, their Messiah. And his accusation was not refuted.

### III. Application – Can We Be Confident?

#### A. The gospel is true.

\*Evidence from Acts 6-7:

- 1) Stephen went to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Those who oppose Jesus Christ have no \_\_\_\_\_ criticism.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ always fights what is good.

#### B. You can speak about the gospel.

\*Advice from Stephen:

- 1) Rely on the Holy Spirit, who will \_\_\_\_\_ your witness.
- 2) Do good works, which will \_\_\_\_\_ your witness.
- 3) Know the Scriptures well, which will \_\_\_\_\_ your witness.