

“Be What ... Do What... and Where...”

Acts 8:14

May 27, 2007

The church is the institution started by Christ to carry out the order and business of His kingdom. The enemy's attack against her became a means of fulfilling the Lord's purpose for her. (Act.8:1-4; Mat.18:18-20, etc.).

I. Contrast

Stephen was willing to die for the name of Christ, even for the privilege of making Him known. Saul was approving and pleased to see him die. (Act.7:54-8:1)

Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, was not consenting unto the Lord's death. He stood contrary to the flood of wrong counsel and action. (Luk.23:50-51)

We must not be quick to judge the motives of others. (Mat.27:18; 23:1; 24:16; 26:9-11; 1Ti.1:13)

Ignorance is no excuse! (1Ti.1:13)

II. Conviction

Foundational convictions are truths that you have arrived at before the Lord and are willing to be persecuted and even die for. You will not compromise them. (Act.4:19-20; 7:54-8:2; Mat.5:10-12)

When one of our loved ones or friends die, it is important is to show our gratitude to God for them, and our feeling of loss. This is not a lack of faith. (Act.8:2; 1Th.4:13; 5:18)

III. Commission

These saints weren't moving to where they liked the weather or could earn more money. They were being scattered by God providentially in order that the Gospel would be spread to Judea and Samaria. (Act.8:1-4)

We are under orders to carry the Gospel to every creature, to all over the world (Mat.28:18-20; Mar.16:15; Act.1:8)

God can get you where He wants you to go even if you don't plan to do it. In fact, even if you plan not to do it. (Act.1:8; 8:1-4; Jon.1-2)

Every one of us is to be salt and light. Every one is to shine the Gospel light where God has put him. (Mat.5:13-16; Act.8:4)

IV. Confidence

The safest place to be is where the Lord wants you. (Psa.4:8; 27:1-5; Joh.7:30,44; 8:20, 59-9:1)

Be what God wants you to be where He wants you to be. Do and say what God wants you to where He has put you. The consequences are with God.

We have not been left here as God's people just to exist, or even just to worship God. We are to glorify Him in doing His will where He has "set" us.

Are you faithful in making Christ known by word & life?