



"But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to Heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." Acts 7:55

Read Acts 6:7-15

1. Why is Stephen's ministry so remarkable?

2. What aspect of Stephen's character and ministry do you need God to produce in and through your life right now?

Read Acts 6:7-15 with John 2:19-25

3. a. How do some of the Jews distort Stephen's teaching for their own purposes?

- b. What does Jesus say about the temple and the law in John 2:19-25?

4. What do you learn about the nature and source of opposition?

5. How can believers ensure that we don't oppose the message of salvation by grace through faith?

Read Acts 7:1-53

6. How does Stephen turn the Sanhedrin's charge against him into an indictment against them?

What does Stephen reveal about Israel's history in v. 1-38,

and his accusers' ancestors in verses 39-53?



7. What stands out to you about God and his plan in Stephen's defense?

8. a. How does Stephen balance grace and truth to put forth a loving yet powerful witness?

b. How can we ensure that our witness to the Lord Jesus Christ is both humble and powerful? (On the one hand, we tend to emphasize the truth without humility; on the other, we don't say anything because we're ashamed..)

Read Acts 7:54-60

9. What happens to prepare Stephen for his death and forgive his persecutors (v.60)?

10. How does Stephen's martyrdom affect the church?

Reflect and Respond

What do you learn about God, His mission through the Lord Jesus Christ, and Stephen's response that prepares you for opposition to the gospel and persecution, even unto death?

How can you apply what you have learned to pray for the persecuted church around the world?