

Bearing Witness Unto Death

Acts 6:8-8:3

- I. **The Big Idea:** Stephen's example shows us what it means to courageously bear witness to Jesus Christ in a hostile world.

A. The Christ-likeness of the Man

John 1: 14 ...the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Acts 10: 38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil

Luke 21:15 I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

Luke 23:46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"

Luke 23: 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"Our behavior in times of need and crisis proclaims what we really are."
– D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Romans 8: 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

B. The Content of the Message

Overview of the sermon

The Double Charge of Blasphemy

1. You have Spoken against God/Temple

- ***The Issue:* God's Location –Where do we go to meet with God?**

John 2: 18 So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body

2. You have spoken against Moses/Law

- ***The Issue:* God's Leader – Who will lead us to God?**

"No harm can be done to the temple and the law, when Christ is openly established as the end and truth of both." –John Calvin

C. The Confidence of the Martyr

Hebrews 10: 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God

"Stephen has been confessing Christ before men, and now he sees Christ confessing his servant before God." - F.F. Bruce

Acts 22: 20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him

"God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus... Saturate me with the oil of the Spirit that I may be aflame. But flame is often short-lived." – Jim Elliot