

1 **The Book of Acts**

Week 8 - Thoughts from Chapter 8

2 **Acts 8:1-8**

Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. [2] Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. [3] But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

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Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. [5] Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. [6] The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. [7] For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. [8] So there was much rejoicing in that city.

4 **A great persecution began**

- Tragedy or opportunity?
- "Therefore those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."
- If Christ is the center of our life, (what our life is about) there is no circumstance that happens that can't be used for His glory.
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5 **Philippians 1:12**

"And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ."

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6 **All Circumstances are God's Opportunities!**

- God does not cause everything, but God will use everything... even the devil's schemes.
- There are no surprises to God!
- Therefore, do not fear or fret but rather trust that God is at work.
- "For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ..." (Phil. 1:20)

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7 **God's Work has Two Directions**

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- God is at work in us
- God is at work through us

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8 **Philippians 1:21**

"For to me, living means living for Christ..."

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