

GLC

4/24/22

### The Scattered/Spreading Church #5

Text: Acts 8:1-12.

Intro: The Church-ekklesia, the word translated "church" has the literal meaning of people called out and called together. It's a mistake to view Church as only a place or building. God's people are the church when gathering for singing, praying, ministry of the word and fellowship. It is a mistake to think the worship life of the church is a weekend or weekday focused event. God's people are meant to gather and scatter.

- Scattered/spreading-- to extend over a wider range, or cause something to cover a wider range than before. To make something widely known.
- We are to bring light into darkness but not become a part of it.
- Recognize behind the symptoms is a disease or sickness. We that have accepted God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ recognize who is the Healer for such sin sickness.

This is accomplished through three W's expressed in Mark 16:20.

1. They went—cp Acts 8:4.
2. The Lord worked with them-assisting them.
3. The Lord confirm (validated) the word (declaration of who Jesus is).
  - The early church kept a renewed sense of God's presence everywhere they went. This was culminated by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and promise of Jesus "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."—Matt.28:20b. (NRSV)
  - The "I AM" phrase first appeared in Ex. 3:13-14. Meaning: "I will be with you" and "I will be what I will be." God told Moses tell the people "I AM had sent him."(John Goldingay, *Israel's Faith's: Old Testament Theology Volume Two*, Intervarsity Press Academic, Downers Grove, Illinois, 2006, p. 189).
  - The expanded implications mean God can be anything that is appropriate or needed. God had the capacity to be whatever Israel needed God to be. Whatever happens in the present or future God will be whatever the situation requires. The disciples and scattered church understood this. He is the same yesterday today and forever—Heb. 13:8.

JDF