

GLC

4/3/22

### The Scattered/Spreading Church #4

Text: Acts 1:3-8, 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.

Three things identified within the text.

1. Persecution (great/severe)—v1.
  - a. Persecution-*diogmos* (1375 Strong's Concordance): a program of systematic harassment.
  - b. The severe harassment and pressure didn't diminish their message—v4.
    - The presence of Jesus Christ in your life is stronger than the challenges.
2. Preached/announced or shared—vv4-5 and 12.
  - a. Christ—Jesus was God's anointed to bring deliverance and reconciliation.
  - b. Contained revelation and relationship=shared message.
    - Something supernatural and special is happening and being stored in your walking with the Lord.
3. Power demonstrations associated with proclamation—vv5-8.
  - a. Kingdom intentions—empowered by the Spirit—gifts of the Spirit meant for the world outside the gathered Church—Acts 1:8; Mk.16:20. They are the miraculous tools to reach people—Acts 1:12.
  - b. There are gifts to edify the gathered Church—Ro.12:4-8; I Cor.12 but also for ministry to the world as described in the Acts account.
  - c. Acts 8:5-6 would include aspects of prayer. Pattern for the scattered Church; proclaim and pray for others and Lord will confirm (Mk.16:20).

Note: The Apostles are not highlighted but Philip was numbered among the scattered—cp Acts 1:1 and vv.5-6.

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