



Series on the Acts of the Apostles #15
Stephen, the First Martyr

Acts 6:8-8:1
Pastor Jim Efaw
Sunday Morning, May 3, 2009

Introduction: *Stephen was murdered (killed) because of his relationship with Jesus Christ as his Savior and seeking to share the truth with others. Hundreds are dying today in other parts of the world for their faith in Christ. Do you think we will live to see a Christian martyred for their faith in our lifetime?*

- I. Stephen, the servant (7:5, 8)
 - A. His occupation

 - B. His opposition (7:9-14)

- II. Stephen, the preacher (7:2-53)
 - A. His audience – the Sanhedrin and many other unbelieving Jews – probably a large crowd

 - B. His approach
 1. He presented the history of Israel.

2. He presented their spiritual failings as a nation.

 - C. His application (7:51-53)
 1. You men are doing just as your fathers did.
 2. You are stiff-necked and rebellious as well.
 3. You have become betrayers and murderers just like they were – Jesus.

- III. Stephen, the martyr (7:54-60)
 - A. His divine care (7:54-57)
 1. God's special dying grace
 2. Jesus' sustaining presence

 - B. His death (7:58-60)
 1. He fell asleep. (v. 60)
 2. He gave up his spirit – like Christ.
 3. He laid not the sin to their charge.

Conclusion: *Christ probably won't ask you to die for Him, but He does want you to **live for Him**.*

What are you doing to further the kingdom of God? You don't have to be gifted or talented – just a faithful layman like Stephen.

Are you resisting the work of the Holy Spirit? Is your attitude one of submission and obedience?

Will your death be a testimony to the grace of God?