



Series on the Acts of the Apostles #17  
**Persecution and God's Plan**

Acts 8:1-25  
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Sunday Morning, June 7, 2009

**Introduction:** *God is omnipotent, but He is also sovereign and in complete control. He has a divine plan for this world and He will bring it to pass and He is always on schedule. It takes Bible-based faith to trust Him.*

*As we study through the book of Acts, everything progresses right on God's timetable. In Chapter 8, the persecution began and God had a purpose in allowing it to happen, even including Stephen's awful murder. It looks like things are out of control, but they are not.*

I. Saul – Persecution (vv. 1-4)

A. The Persecution

B. The Persecutor

II. Philip – Power (vv. 5-13)

A. His audience (hearers)

B. His message

C. His power

III. Simon – Peril

A. His profession of faith (v. 13)

B. His problem (vv. 20-24)

1. He desired to possess spiritual power for personal gain.
2. His motives were wrong.
3. His faulty salvation experience

**Conclusion:**

1. *Every one of you fits into God's plan for the world.*
2. *Are you resting in the fact that God is in control and everything is on schedule?*
3. *God uses laymen and calls them into full-time vocational Christian service.*
4. *What are your motives for serving the Lord?*
5. *Is your profession of faith in Christ a false one?*