

Divin' In – Wednesday Night Bible Study

THE CHURCH OF THE SPRINGS – 11/13/24

“The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen’s accusation, and they were grinding their teeth against him....then they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and together rushed against him.”

– from Acts 7:54,57



ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Christian Derangement Syndrome



Acts 7:51-52 VOICE

[Stephen, to the Jewish leaders] “You stubborn, stiff-necked people! Sure, you are physically **Jews**, but you are no different from **outsiders** in your hearts and ears! You are just like your ancestors, constantly fighting against the **Holy Spirit**. Didn’t your ancestors persecute the **prophets**? First, they killed those **prophets** who predicted the coming of the Righteous One, the Messiah—and NOW, it is the Messiah Himself that you have betrayed and murdered!”

Acts 16:19-20, 22-23a, 24a, 25-27, 30-31, 33-34 NLT

“[The demon-possessed slave girl’s] master’s hopes of **wealth** were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. “*The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!*” they shouted to the city officials....

A **mob** quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were **severely** beaten, and then they were thrown into prison....inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and **singing hymns** to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself....

Then [the jailer] brought them out and asked, “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*” They replied, “*Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.*”....Even at that **hour** of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately **baptized**. [The jailer] brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

Acts 1:8 ESV

[Jesus] “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My **witnesses** [Greek: *martures*] in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 22:20 AMPC

[Paul, to Jesus in a vision in the Temple in Jerusalem] “And when the blood of Your **witness** [*martus*] **Stephen** was shed, I also was personally standing by and **consenting** and approving and guarding the garments of those who slew him.”

1 Peter 5:1 NLT+

“And now, finally, a word to any of you who are **leaders**, elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and an ACTUAL **eye-witness** [*martus*] to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, am sharing in His glories which WILL be seen when HE is **revealed** to the whole world.”

Hebrews 12:1-3 VOICE

“So since we stand surrounded by all those who have gone before, an enormous cloud of **witnesses** [*martures*], let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the long race set before us. Now stay **focused** on Jesus, who *designed* and *perfected* our faith. He endured the cross and **ignored** the shame of that death because He focused on the **joy** that was set before Him; and now He is seated beside God on the throne, a place of honor. Consider the life of the One who endured such personal attacks and **hostility** from sinners so that you will not grow weary or lose heart.

The stoning of Stephen – Acts 7

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