



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

*Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)
The Wise Still Seek Him*

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

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I See Jesus,

Standing at the Father's Right Hand

Dh! To see Jesus! Are you willing to pay the price as did Stephen, the deacon? In those days deacons knew the Word of God in Christ Jesus and preached the Word. Yes, they oversaw the matters at hand (Acts 6) to allow the preachers to give their lives to the Word; however, the deacons did not sit on the Board of Trustees or any other board or committee. They preached and were well versed in the Word and their lives were in Jesus Christ.

Let us see some of the deacons in the Bible and let us review the qualifications for the deacons.

Act 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [*unto them*], and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Act 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Act 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Note that the preachers, the apostles, gave themselves **continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word**. Oh, how times have changed and the qualifications of those standing – uh is it on a pulpitum have changed – as well as the qualifications and work of the deacons.

People today say to me, but you do not understand, Times have changed and we need to change with the times. And, indeed, that is what has taken place. The churches have changed to be like the times and are following the times and the people leading the times. The Word of God in Christ Jesus seemingly has gone by the wayside for many and motivational speakers are now standing on the pulpitum.

And certainly there is a big change also with deacons. The Word of God is not flowing forth from them either as we see in the Holy Bible.

Act 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Act 6:6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid [*their*] hands on them.

Act 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

We are called to be steadfast in the Lord, steadfast in whatever lies before us that is the Lord's will in our lives.

Luk 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

Luk 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *[them]*. And they went to another village.

I ask, Have you stedfastly set your face to go to heaven? Have you stedfastly set your face to tell the world, your world where you are – family, friends, foes, about the Lord Jesus Christ and His love.

Are we willing like St. Stephen to stedfastly proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and tell the world about His love for them? Are we ready to preach with our words and our lives that others shall also see Jesus? I ask,

Do you really want to see Jesus?

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Act 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Oh, Stephen – what a deacon, a man of God who knew the Holy Word, the Living Word, Jesus Christ and the written Word, the Pentateuch and the Prophets.

Act 7:54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with [their] teeth.

Act 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.

Act 7:56 And said, Behold, **I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.**

Reading of St. Stephen, this great man of God who stood before the people who were so opposed to hearing what he had to say, I have to ask myself, Do I want to see Jesus? Hatred for the Lord Jesus Christ today is the same as in the days of St. Stephen. There are those who do not want to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ; they desire to walk on that broad road that leads to destruction.

Looking over the centuries past, reviewing even the Old Testament times, we are made aware of the many who have been persecuted because of their love for the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus. It is no different today all through the world. Oh, the love that all these have had, and do have for the Lord, gives forth a strength and love

Let us look at the scripture more closely from Acts. Acts Six. The response to the calling upon the lives of the followers of Jesus Christ is one of great depth and love. They loved the Word and knew that their calling was to give forth the Word of the Lord. It is the Word of God in Christ Jesus that gives forth life, life now and eternally.

You see, they did not have computers in those days where they could go look up on dot com and select the motivational speech for the followers of Jesus Christ, and call it a Word of the Lord. I believe we find them, as we have in the earlier centuries, those who were called of God to preach, called to study the Word (II Tim 2.15), and to give forth the Word, the Truth given them from the Word. They were not *men* pleasers. They were called of God to speak forth His Word, to give forth the Truth – though it might cost them – as it did St. Stephen.

The disciples chose those of good report, those whose lives "of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" (Acts 6.3)

They were of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. The lives of these men showed forth their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They were faithfull unto the Lord and the calling upon their lives. It was not JESUS FIRST, as we have heard in times past. I believe it was JESUS ONLY!

We are told of Stephen's love for the Lord, his boldness, his courage, for the cause of Jesus Christ. John tells us,

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

We read in Acts 6.7 that "the word of God increased, and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."

Oh, what a witness when "Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." But, Beware! Satan is alive and working today as he did in the days of Stephen and all through history. Satan is there to stir the emotionis of people who are posed against the Lord Jesus Christ and His followers, those who love the Lord with their lives.

Notice the wisdom of Stephen and the presence of the Holy Spirit, by which he was able to give forth the Word of the Lord. Oh, when the Word of the Lord goes forth under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, goes forth in power in might, Satan goes to war and uses whom he will, those who are willing to be used by him, those who are against the Word of God in Christ Jesus, against the followers of the Lord God, those who are endeavoring to live a life of holiness according to the Word of God.

When we look at the life of St. Stephen, it is imperative that we read carefully, seeking the Lord God – if we want to see Jesus. We are told that he was "full of the Holy Ghost." Acts 6.5 reveals to us that Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost. When the Holy Spirit came upon Stephen and others, they were endowed with gifts from the Lord. St. Stephen goes forth with great zeal, as one overflowing with strength and courage, love and grace, desiring to preach the Gospel unashamedly, not caring that people would reject the Truth of God in Christ Jesus. But, also not concerning himself that he would be rejected, that the Truth of God he preached would be rejected. He was obedient.

This is a man whose life was steadfastly in the Lord, in His Word. His eyes were fixed on heaven. He was aware he had no safety for his life, that there was no justice at the hands of the authorities. Knowing that danger threatened his hope of safety, he steadfastly looked unto the heavenly world, to Jesus Christ. It behooves us to fix our eyes upon Jesus, and to behold the glory of the Lord God.

Oh, that we might look unto the Lord and know the presence of the Lord in our midst, as we endeavor to live for Him Who died for us. We need to be aware that all through the centuries many have died for the Lord, have been tortured horrendously for their love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Nations oft times invite into their land those who worship other gods and who, in their own land, have persecuted Christ's Holy Church – but are welcomed to enter a country and bring their gods with them – not caring that they are the enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ and His followers. There are many in the Bible and all through the centuries who have given their all for Jesus – and willingly gave their lives for Jesus Christ.

They understood *The Love of God*. They were not about retaliation, but about giving forth the Word that others might know the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, knowing what lay before Him, steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem (Lk 9.51). The disciples knowing Jesus was rejected, asked the Lord "...wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? (v 56)

Hear the Lord's response:

But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.
For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *[them]*. And they went to another village (Lk 9.55, 56).