

“THE PURE AND THE PHONY”

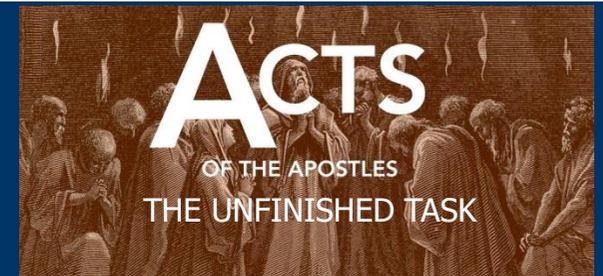
(Acts 8:1-24)

Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 16

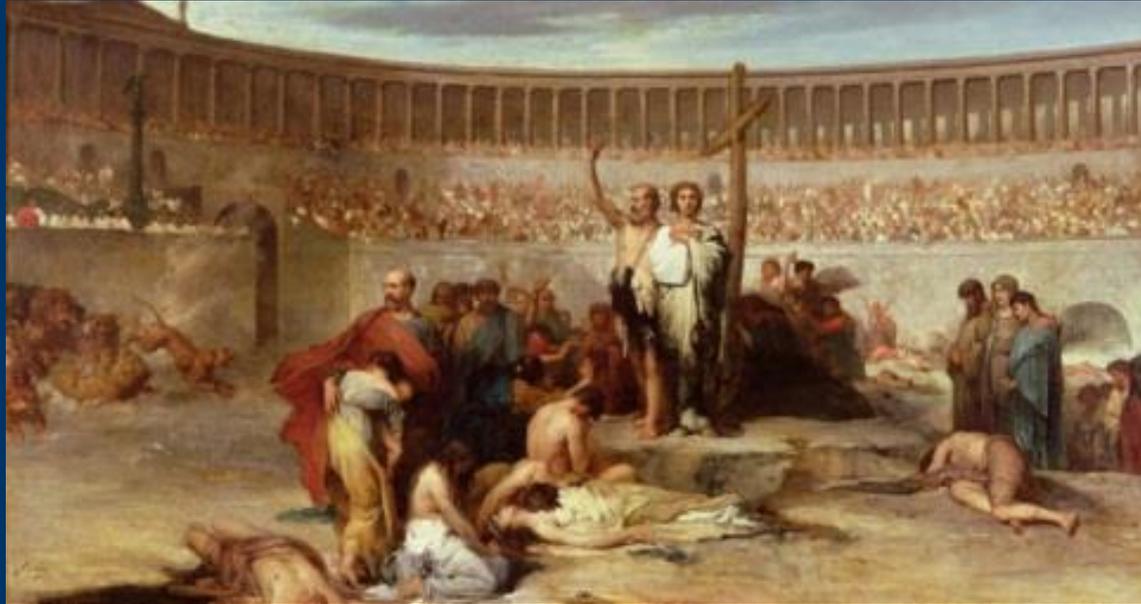
Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: February 10, 2019

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:



First Century Persecution of Christian

Twenty First Century Persecution of Christian

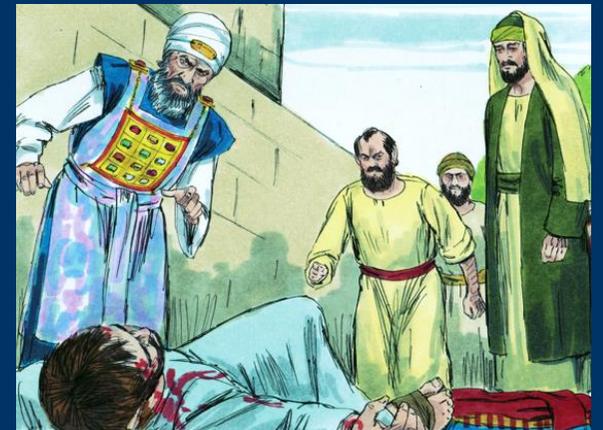


I. MARTYRDOM IGNITES PERSECUTION

Paul: Who is this man in the history of Christian persecution?

***Acts 7:58b** Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named **Saul**...*

***Acts 8:1** And **Saul** approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.*



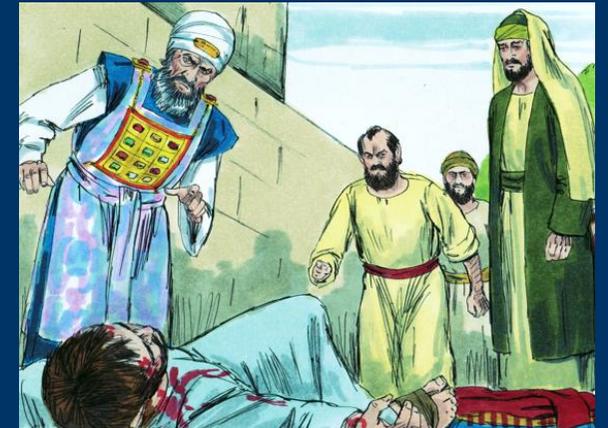
I. MARTYRDOM IGNITES PERSECUTION

Paul: Who is this man in the history of Christian persecution?

***Acts 22:4** I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison,*

***Acts 26:10** On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.*

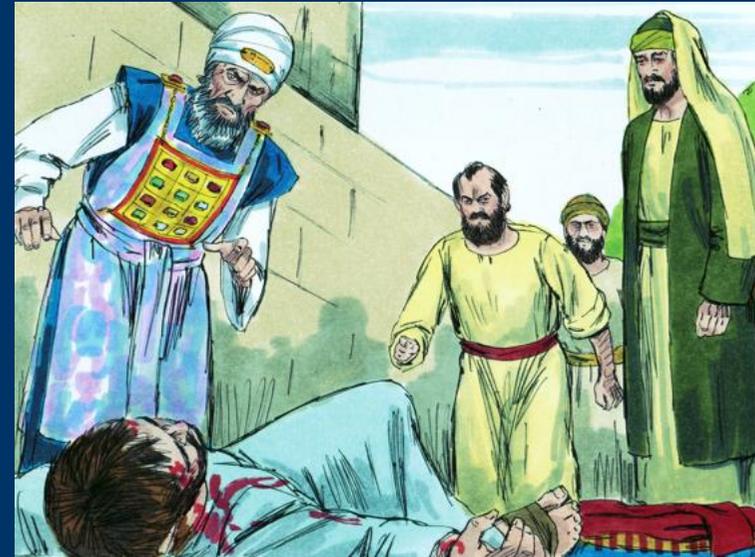
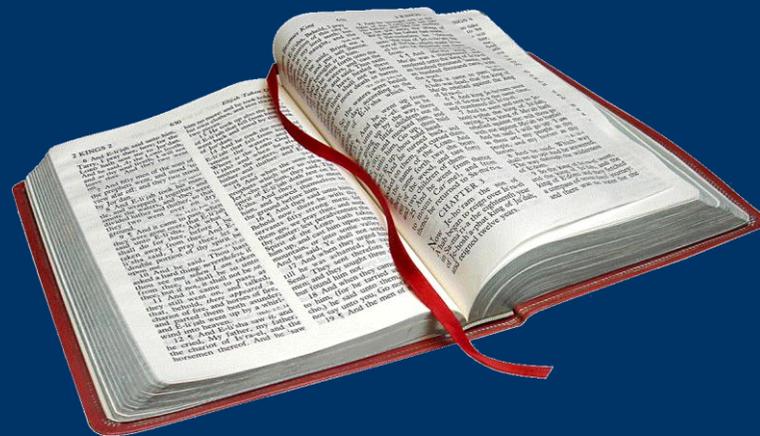
***11** Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.*



II. PERSECUTION PROMPTS TRUE EVANGELISM

A) Predicted by Christ

Acts 1:8b *You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*



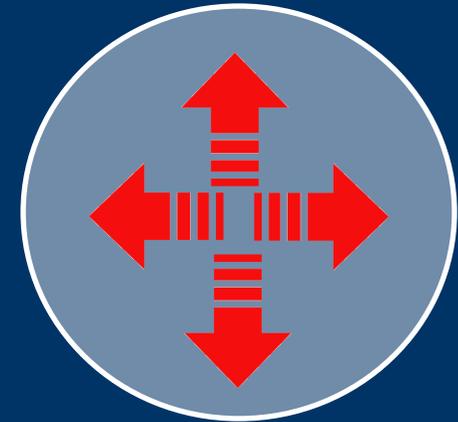
II. PERSECUTION PROMPTS TRUE EVANGELISM

The prediction by Christ in Evangelism



Jerusalem

Establishing: Putting down roots and laying a strong foundation.



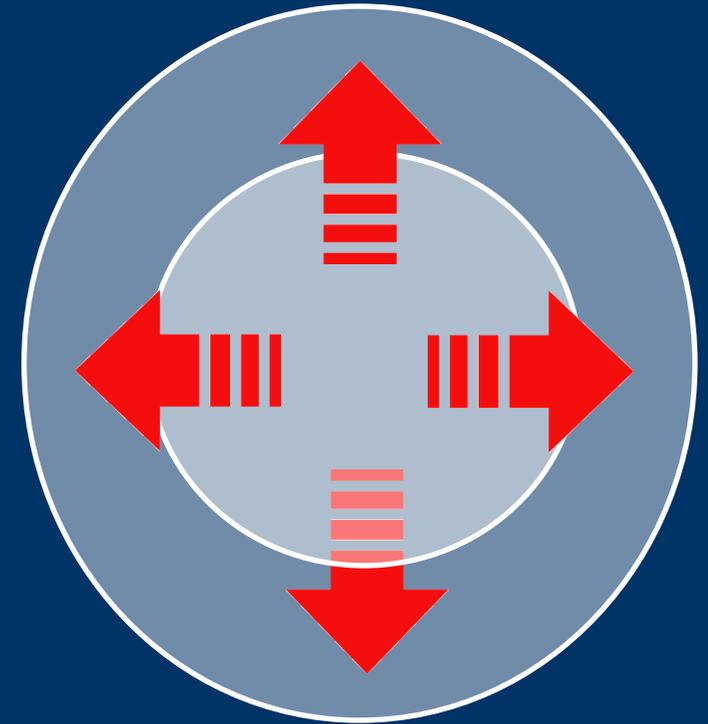
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The prediction by Christ in Evangelism



Judea &
Samaria

Scattering: Persecution and pain, discomfort and disappointment are ways that God used to break us out of the shell.



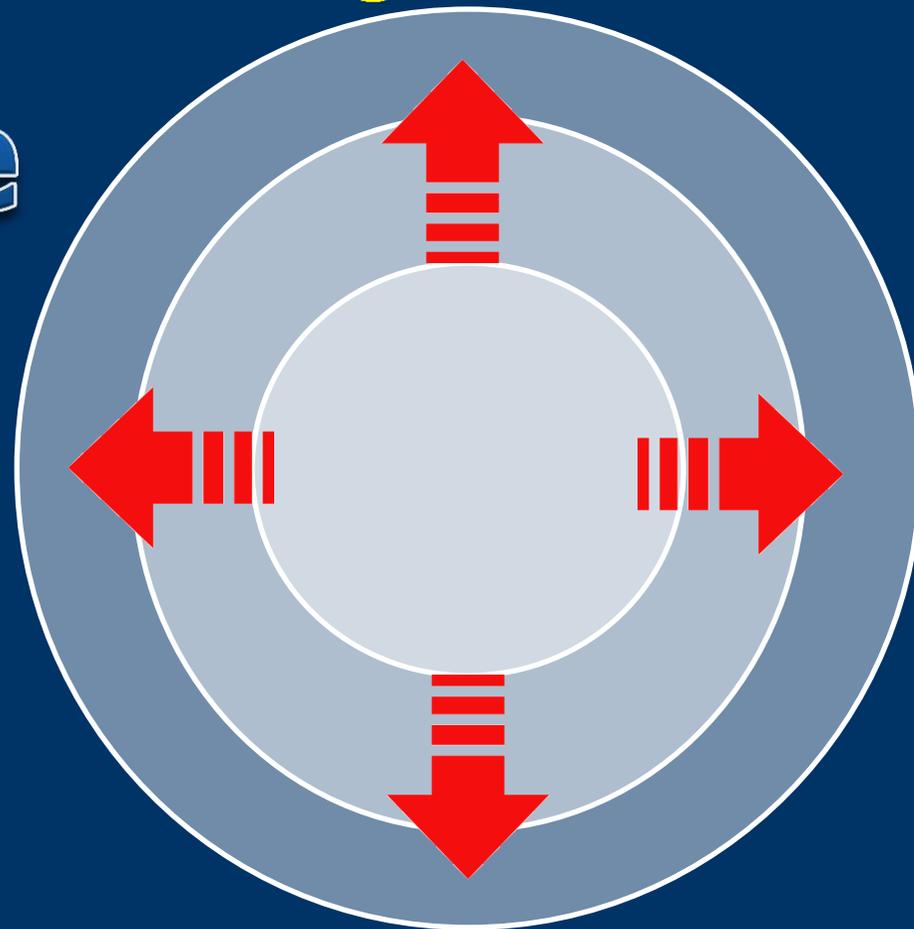
II. PERSECUTION PROMPTS TRUE EVANGELISM

The prediction by Christ in Evangelism



Ends of the
earth

Extending: *Having profited from life's buffeting, we become seasoned, mature servants of Christ, we are ready to reach out.*

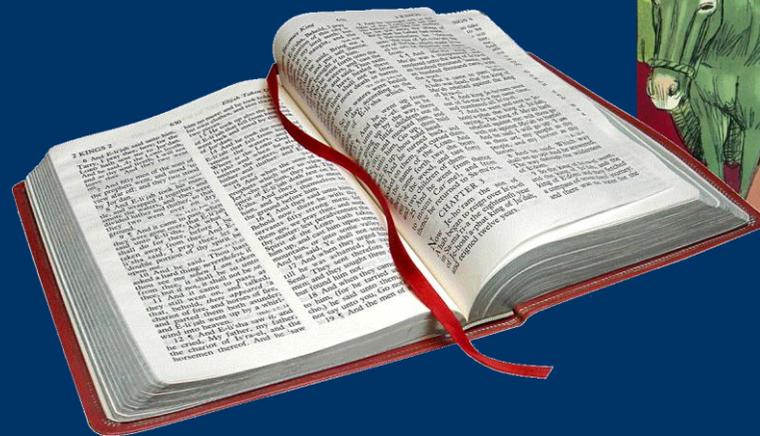


II. PERSECUTION PROMPTS TRUE EVANGELISM

B) Experienced by Christians

Persecution send people to places that never thought of going.

Acts 8:4 Those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

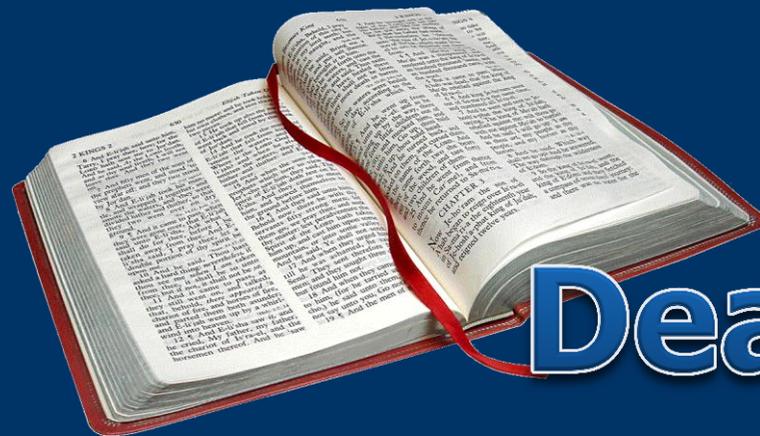


II. PERSECUTION PROMPTS TRUE EVANGELISM

B) Experienced by Christians

1) True evangelism emphasizes the centrality of Jesus.

Acts 8:5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.



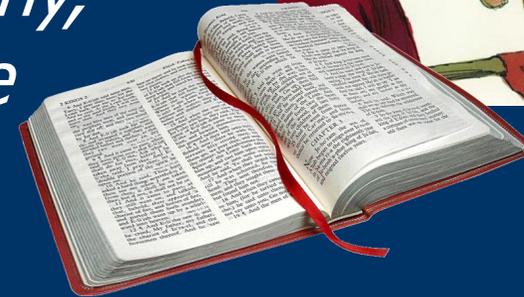
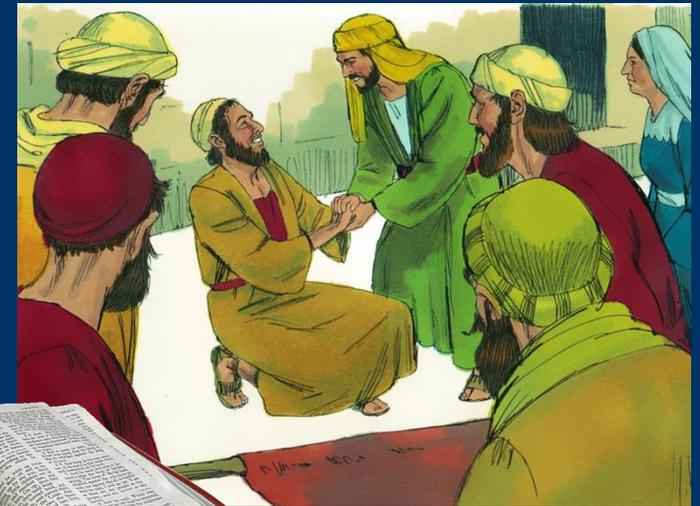
Deacon Philip

II. PERSECUTION PROMPTS TRUE EVANGELISM

B) Experienced by Christians

2) True evangelism had a dynamic of liberating power.

Acts 8:6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷ For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

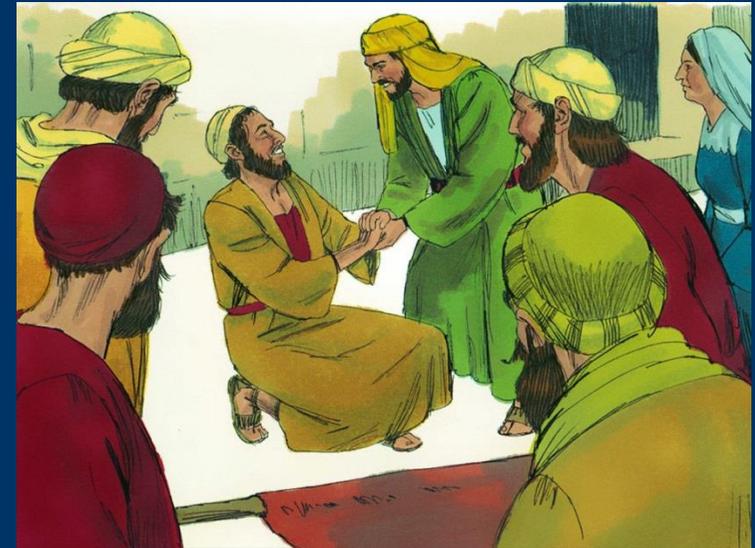
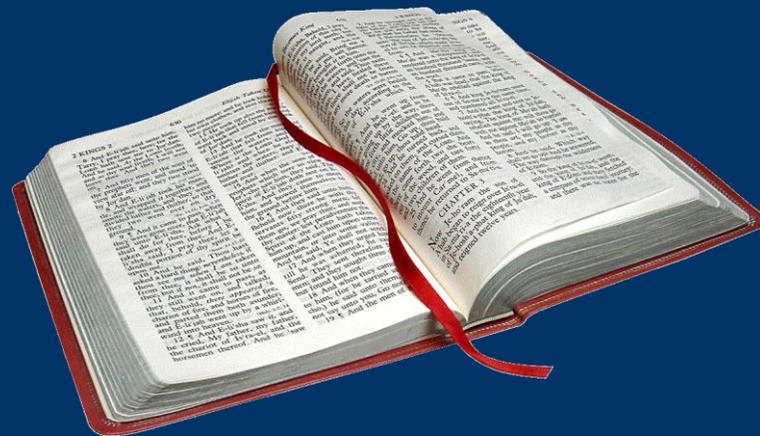


II. PERSECUTION PROMPTS TRUE EVANGELISM

B) Experienced by Christians

3) True evangelism included the presence of contagious joy.

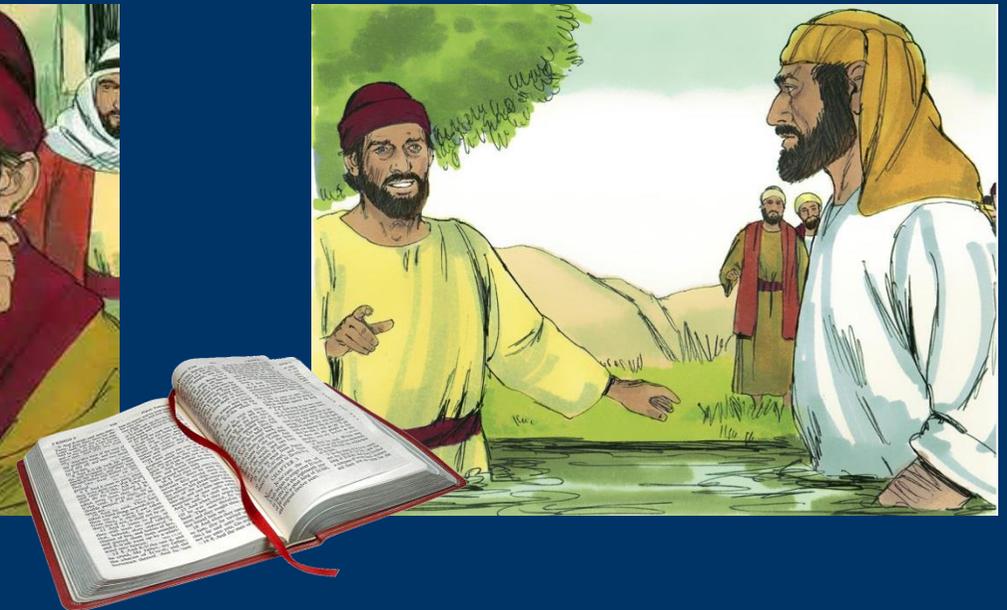
Acts 8:8 So there was great joy in that city.



III. TRUE EVANGELISM EXPOSES FALSE FAITH

A) *Characteristics of the Phony*

Acts 8:9a *Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria.*



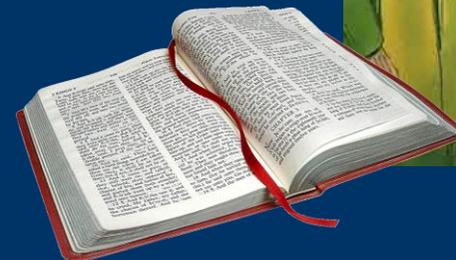
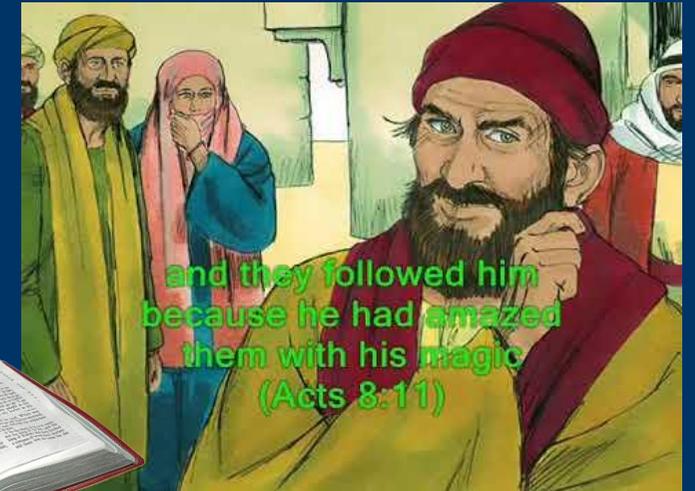
III. TRUE EVANGELISM EXPOSES FALSE FAITH

A) *Characteristics of the Phony*

The principle characteristic of a phony faith is that...

1) It exalts a person rather than Christ.

Acts 8:9b *He boasted that he was someone great.*



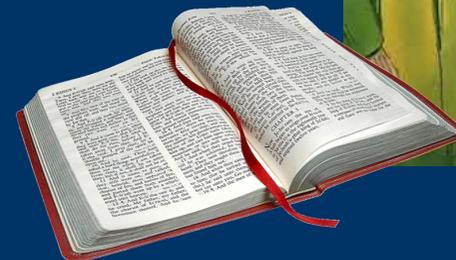
III. TRUE EVANGELISM EXPOSES FALSE FAITH

A) *Characteristics of the Phony*

The principle characteristic of a phony faith is that...

2) It draws a follower based on fleshly attractions and impressions.

Acts 8:10 and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God."



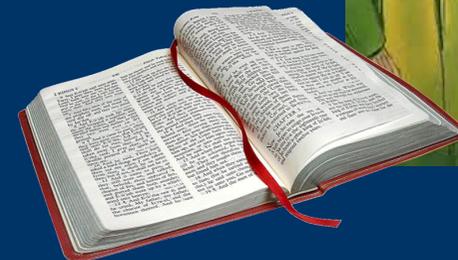
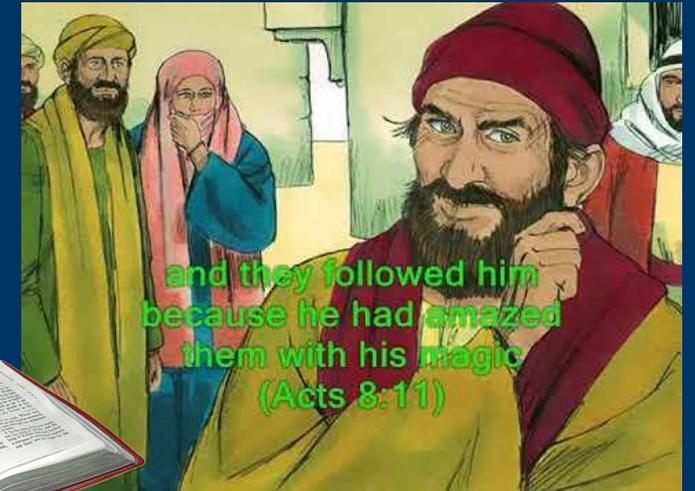
III. TRUE EVANGELISM EXPOSES FALSE FAITH

A) *Characteristics of the Phony*

The principle characteristic of a phony faith is that...

3) *It exercises counterfeit Power.*

Acts 8:11 *They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery.*



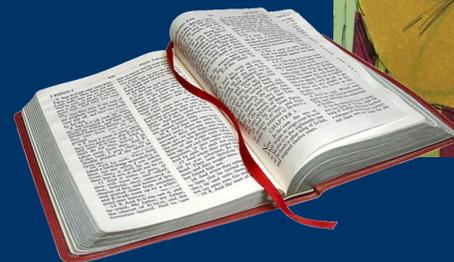
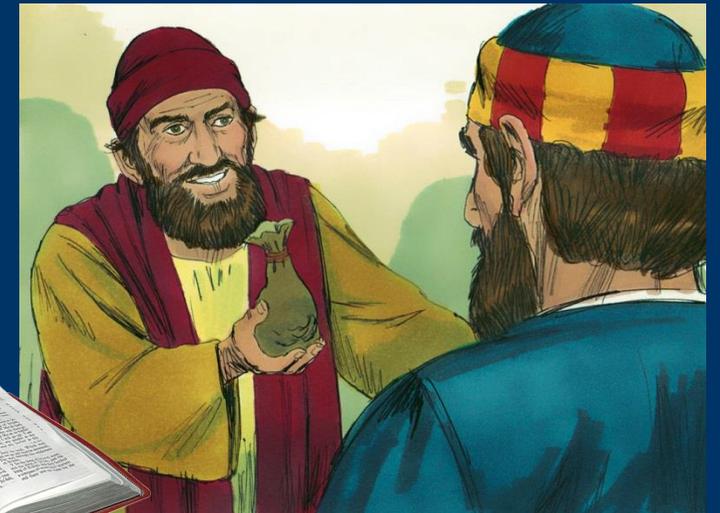
III. TRUE EVANGELISM EXPOSES FALSE FAITH

A) *Characteristics of the Phony*

The principle characteristic of a phony faith is that...

4) *It is going through the religious motions for the wrong motives.*

Acts 8:18 *When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money*



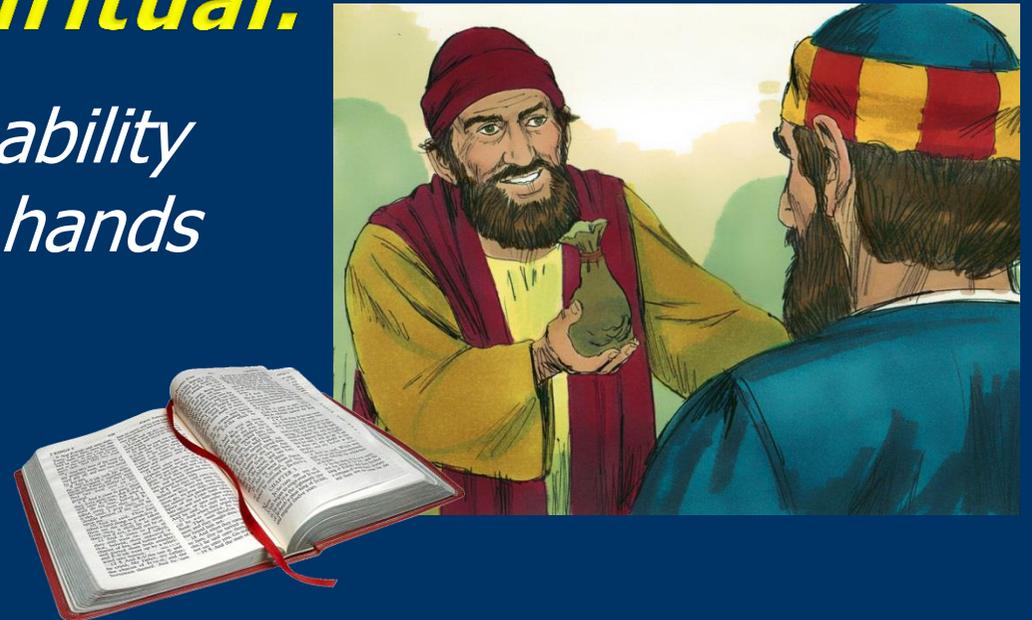
III. TRUE EVANGELISM EXPOSES FALSE FAITH

A) *Characteristics of the Phony*

The principle characteristic of a phony faith is that...

5) It is preoccupied with the material rather than the spiritual.

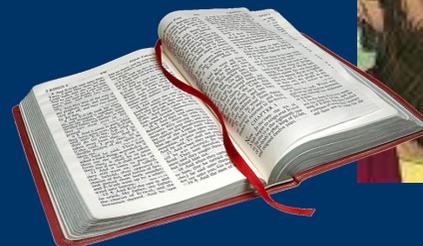
Acts 8:19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."



III. TRUE EVANGELISM EXPOSES FALSE FAITH

B) Confrontation by the Pure

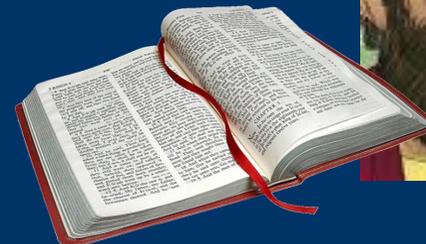
Acts 8:20 Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!
21 You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. **22** Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart:
23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."



III. TRUE EVANGELISM EXPOSES FALSE FAITH

B) Confrontation by the Pure

Acts 8:24 *Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."*

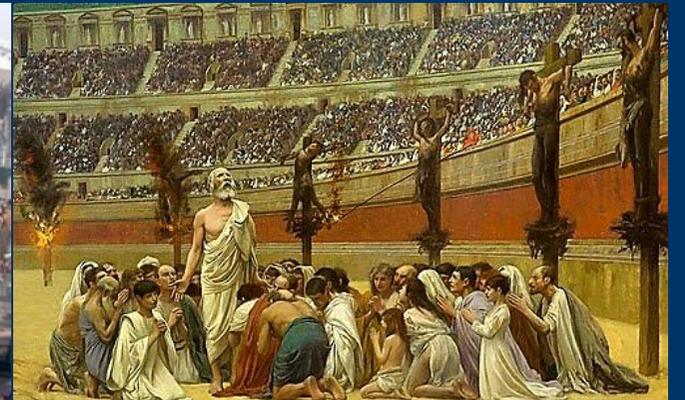


CONCLUSION:



Persecution, however negative or as difficult as it is to endure, is God's tool to fulfill His great commission. He uses it to...

- 1) Separate the pure from the phony in the early church.***
- 2) Push the gospel message farther out from Jerusalem to fulfill the Great Commission.***





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why does God allow Christian to suffer through persecution? Share some personal persecution you experience as a Christian.*
- 2. Share some latest news of persecution of Christians and how does the news affects Christian worldwide?*
- 3. What was the blueprint of Christ's divine evangelism strategy?*
- 4. What are some characteristics of true evangelism?*
- 5. What are some characteristics of false evangelist? How should we confront them in church?*



*Scripture References:
Acts 8:1-24*