

Act 3-7:

# The Foundation of the Church's Life

*The Foundation of the Church's Life is...*

- Edification

## Gospel



preaching



Living and sharing Resurrection Life

- **P** = Persecution

- Going out to a dark, needy world

Before Jump to chapter 7 first to get a full picture of the Gospel.

### Ch.3

(vss.1-10) **A Lame Man Healed**

- ✝ Disciples of Jesus Christ at the very least can offer the resurrection power found in the name of Jesus Christ.

## Gospel

(vss.11-26) **The**

**Preached in Solomon's Portico**

### Ch.4

(vss.1-4) **Peter and John Arrested**

**P**

## The Gospel

(vss.5-12)

**Preached to the Sanhedrin**

## the Gospel

**P**

(vss.13-22) **The Sanhedrin's Rejection of**

(vss.23-31) **Believers' Prayer for Boldness**

(vss.32-37) **Continual Unity of Believers**

## **Ch. 5**

### **(vss.1-11) God's Discipline of His Body**

- † Don't play with God. Treat your life with the utmost gravity. God is most serious about the Body of Christ. The dwelling of Jesus Christ is most holy.

### **(vss.12-16) Continuing Power and the Healing of Many**

- † Recall back in the Gospel of Matthew, there was a time when the apostles could not heal because they were of "little faith". However, now filled with the Holy Spirit, fruit abounded!

**P**

### **(vss.17-21) Persecution again by Jerusalem's Leaders yet delivered by the Lord's Angel**

### **(vss.22-42) Apostles on Trial**

- † Back in Matthew 10:19-20 "...do not worry what to say...it will be the Holy Spirit..."
- † Gamaliel's advice – what was going on in his heart and mind?
- † How can we rejoice like the Apostles during suffering?)

## **Ch.6**

### **(vss.1-7) Choosing of Seven Faithful Servants**

- † We can't just put people into positions who are not walking the talk. Fruit testifies to Faithfulness.

**P**

### **(6:8-15) Stephen seized on false accusations**

## **Ch.7**

# ***the Gospel***

**Stephen Preaches**

**to the Sanhedrin**

- † Stephen preached the whole Gospel which is the one and only Foundation Ministry of the Church

Break down and identify the various segments of the Sermon.

How should Stephen's sharing of the Gospel change our conception, understanding, and communication of the Gospel?

### **DISCUSSION:**

When sharing the Gospel, why go back to the beginning?

Why do we need the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit of Christ?

Why do we need to have knowledge of Biblical persons and events and the proper understanding of the meaning of the entire history that is revealed in the Bible?

Why are we sinners?

Why do we need God's provision of justification through faith in His Son? (Romans 5:8)

Why did we need God's Son to die for us?

# Centrality of the Gospel

Note the central place of the Gospel – the death of Christ and primarily the resurrection of the King of kings. The Gospel is not only the message of all Scripture and the Church but it is the life and ministry of all who desire to be followers of the Way. As disciples suffer persecution for righteousness sake, they are experiencing the essential fellowship of sharing in Christ's sufferings. As the conversion of Paul will reveal, transformation of identity is true oneness with Christ in His resurrection. Thus, the Church is to proclaim the Gospel and live it. The Gospel, death and resurrection towards the goal of reconciliation, is the all encompassing experience of true Christians.

# Live the Gospel!!!