

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:38-39

Acts 3:19

Acts 4:12

“Nor is there salvation in any other,
for there is no other name under
heaven given among men by which
we must be saved”

Acts 5:29

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”

Acts 7 Outline

- * Vs. 1-53
 - * Stephen's defense, sermon
- * Vs. 54-60
 - * Stephen stoned

Overview of Jewish History

- * Included the facts they loved to hear about
 - * Their land
 - * Their nation
 - * Their law
 - * Their temple
- * Showed the continual rejection of God's messengers
 - * Refusing to listen
 - * Persecuting them

Received but rejected the living oracles

Blasphemy? No.

- * Christ is the fulfillment of the promises to Abraham and to Moses
 - * By preaching Christ, Stephen is not speaking against Abraham nor Moses
- * Not against the law because teaching the gospel is teaching from God too – Heb 8:5-13
 - * Even Moses predicted an end to that law when another prophet would come – v.37
- * Not against the temple because just as the temple followed the tabernacle, so was there to be a better way for true worshippers of God – Jn 4:20-24

Stephen's Audience

- * Stiff-necked – stubborn – “would not bow their neck to the Lord” (Harkrider)
- * Uncircumcised in heart and ears – rebellious and unwilling to hear
- * Their fathers refused to keep the law of Moses spoken by angels – Heb 2:2
- * Their fathers persecuted the prophets
- * Resisted the Holy Spirit by rejecting the Just One
- * Were betrayers and murderers

Stopping the Ears

- * “the same sun that melts the wax hardens the clay”
- * “cut to the heart” = “furious” = “cut to the quick”
 - * Not the same as “cut to the heart” in 2:37
- * Stephen’s message infuriated them
- * They grit their teeth in anger
- * They cried out with a loud voice
- * They stopped their ears
- * They ran at him with one accord
- * They cast him out of the city and stoned him

Do people really stop their ears?

- * Sometimes, yes
- * Physically refuse to listen
- * Refuse to assemble with the church
- * Refuse to meet with people who want to share the truth
- * Silence the teacher
- * Get a new preacher
- * Intimidate
- * 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Doctrine Defeated

- * “Jesus only” doctrine that states there is only one person in the Godhead, and that is Jesus
- * But Stephen sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God
- * Heb 1:3

The mind and the way of Christ

- * 1 Peter 2:21-23
- * Matthew 5:43-48
- * Luke 23:34
- * Acts 7:60

Stephen's Message

- * A plain, powerful rebuke
- * Not motivated by self-righteousness, hatred, ill will
- * Not egotistical, judgmental, lacking in love
- * Sincere concern for the lost
- * Evidenced in verse 60