

May 27, 2018
Acts 7:54-8:3
Sermon Notes

What does a meaningful life look like?

Stephen:

1. Displayed the character of Christ
2. Had a real relationship with God
3. Was offensive to the surrounding culture

1 John 3:8-10 ESV

8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

"You can be no more indifferent to sin than you could be indifferent to a rattlesnake in your house."

1 John 2:1 ESV

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Matthew 10:32-33 ESV

32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Jeremiah 29:13 ESV

13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

"Men do not know that God is here. What a difference it would make if they knew."

A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

1 Corinthians 1:18 NLT

18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

Galatians 5:11 NLT

11 Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—as some say I do—why am I still being persecuted? If I were no longer preaching salvation through the cross of Christ, no one would be offended.

“Why should we be persecuted? In what way is the average ... Christian making such a difference for the kingdom of God that he/she warrants being persecuted? In what way does the average ... Christian stand out from his/her society in such a way that the offense of the cross that Paul speaks of in Galatians 5:11 is exhibited?”

Glenn Penner, Voice of the Martyrs

2 Timothy 3:12 ESV

12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,