

THE DEATH OF STEPHEN

Acts 7.54-8.1 // October 2, 2022

OUR ADVOCATE

For the first time in the church’s young life, a believer give his life for his faith in Christ. After this, nothing will be the same. Like “the shot heard around the world” of 1775, or the attack on Pearl Harbor, this event signifies a “point of no return” as it pertains to the existence of the church going forward.

But here, Stephen significantly sees his Savior standing at the right hand of God, ready to receive him to glory. This is our great hope: that Christ is our Advocate, standing before us and beside us as our Defense and our Fortress.

1 John 2.1, 2 // Romans 8.31-39 // Colossians 2.9-15

So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: "I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!"

-Martin Luther

WITNESSES

Romans 8.18

Though this is the first time that Stephen saw this particular image of Christ, it is surely not the first time that Stephen has had such a view of Christ. Stephen had already been prepared in his heart for this day. He knew and was convinced of who Jesus was and what He had done, and this is what gave him the faith to look up even while his enemies were attacking.

Witness: in Greek, the word for “witness” is actually pronounced “martyr.”

Though a believer who gives his or her life for Christ is rightfully called a martyr, in another sense every single believer is called to a martyr, a witness who is convinced and committed to what they have seen in Christ, so much so that they lay their life down in whatever capacity that looks like.

IT’S NOT YOU, IT’S ME

John 15.18-16.4 // Ephesians 2.1-3 // 1 Peter 5.8-11

We must always remember that the world hates us because it hates Jesus and the message of the Gospel. Life in this fallen world is not easy, and it was never promised to be easy. But because of our hope in Christ, we count it an honor and gift to be able to suffer for the sake of the One who suffered for us.

**Jesus had love to suffer for me
that I might have faith to suffer with Him.**

NOTES:

This Week’s Scripture to Memorize:

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We’d love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you’ll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens’ ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart phone camera at the QR Code to access a virtual Connection Card

MAILING ADDRESS:
Life Mission Church
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San Marcos, CA 92079

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

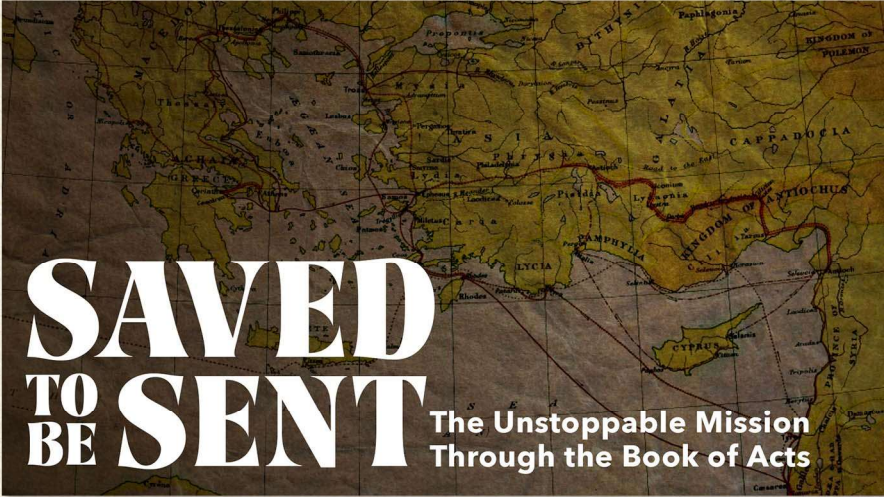
Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?
Read **Acts 7.54-8.1**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself
How does the Gospel truth of Jesus being our Advocate (**1 John 2.1, 2, Colossians 2.9-15**) help us to stand strong among the condemnation we feel from the enemy or our own hearts? What are of your life do you most need this truth right now?

Your Life Mission
How does the idea that we are all, at some level, called to see ourselves as “martyrs” change the way you see your role in your life and among the relationships you have? In what ways could you use prayer to be able to lay your life down for specific people or circumstances in your life?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
 - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God’s goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week’s text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
 - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don’t need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
 - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God’s desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God’s love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
 - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

