

DRAW NEAR TO GOD

Acts 7.42-60 // September 25, 2022

UNCIRCUMCISED HEARTS

Jeremiah 6.10

Stephen has built up to this moment when he finally shows his cards to the Jewish Leaders. Here he calls them “stiff-necked” and “uncircumcised in their ears.” These are phrases used in the Old Testament to describe stubbornness and an unwillingness to turn or repent. Specifically, being uncircumcised in their ears or hearts reveals a deeper issue. Though they may be outwardly circumcised and professing faith, inwardly it is not genuine.

FOLLOWING IDOLS

Hebrews 3.12, 13 // Romans 1.21-25 // Psalm 135.15-18

Be careful what you desire, God may let you have it.

One thing Stephen specifically warns them of is that if they continue down their stiff-necked path, God may hand them over to their own sinful desires. We see this very similar language in **Romans 1**.

We become what we worship.

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An important caveat for us: God giving us over *in totality* and *eternally* is only applicable to those who have not been made alive and born again by the Spirit. While it may be obvious that this is for those who clearly don’t profess Christ, it is also a dire warning for those who *do profess Christ*, because there are many who are living with no true affection for Christ, but rather living for worldly pleasures, and this could mean that they are *also* not truly regenerated in their hearts.

**Even though you will fall, your faith will not totally fail,
if indeed you are in Christ.**

For those who *are* born again, the warning is still gravely important, as every single one of us can wander and choose to pursue sin; however, we can also take comfort in knowing that God will never ultimately cast us off in an eternal way.

**Remember that if you are a child of God,
You will never be happy in sin.**

-C.H. Spurgeon

Ephesians 4.17-24 // James 4.8 // Hebrews 10.22, 23

Draw near to God, and He *will* draw near to you.

NOTES:

This Week’s Scripture to Memorize:

1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”

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 **worshiping 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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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **Acts 7.42-60**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

What was the warning that Stephen gave to the Jewish Leaders? While the warning is for believers, as well, what part of the Gospel gives you relief and gratitude, and how does that affect your view of this warning?

Your Life Mission

We live in a world with so many who are stiff-necked and hard of heart. How do you need specific prayer for folks in your life with whom you want to share the Gospel with who have hardened hearts?

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.

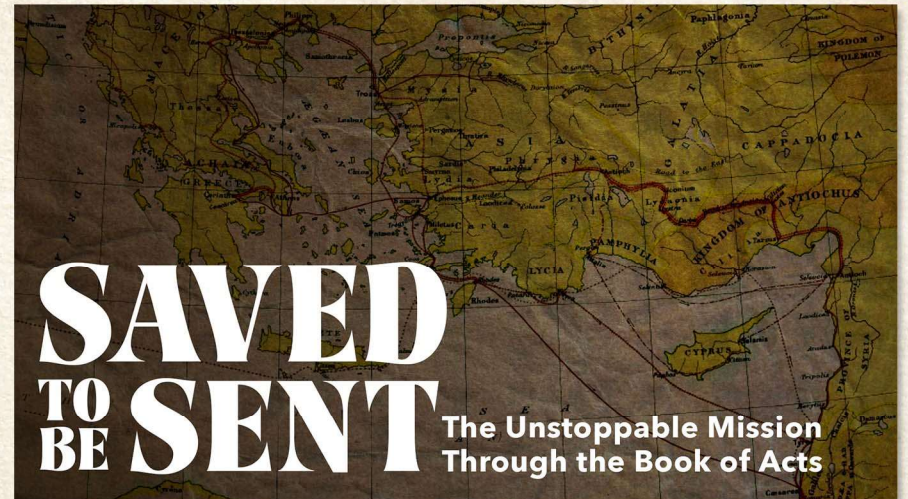
- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
 - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
 - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances 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.



LIFE MISSION

CHURCH

**MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.**



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

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

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