**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. July 2, 2017**

**Growing Through Persecution**

ACTS 8:1-25

**Key truth:** God uses the persecution and suffering of His people to spread the truth of Christ and to bless the world.

1. Persecution serves God’s purpose.

 A. Stephen’s death propelled the church to carry the

 gospel to the surrounding cities.

 B. You can kill the messenger but never the message.

 Luke 21:12-13

2. Wherever you go be a witness for Jesus Christ.

3. The Gospel penetrates prejudices.

4. The Gospel penetrates darkness.

5. We most protect the purity of the gospel:

 Modern day enemies of the gospel: Jude 3

 1. Prosperity gospel. 1 Timothy 6:6-10

 2. Name it and claim it gospel. Romans 4:13-22

 3. The gospel of ease and consumerism. Jude 12-13

 4. Self-righteous gospel. Galatians 1:6-8

**Taking It Beyond the Walls:** No matter how chaotic the world seems, put your faith in Jesus Christ. Don’t allow your circumstances to determine your destiny.

**Food For Thought**

For the Week of July 2, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

For we are God’s workman- ship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

\*This week seek to do something good for someone expecting nothing in return.

While being an “Evangelist” is a gift, as followers of Christ we are called to evangelize. Evangelism is an act of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ with the goal of influencing others to follow Him.

\*Pray for opportunities to share the gospel. We don’t have to go overseas to share our faith. Sometimes just crossing the street is enough.

**14**How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? **15**And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:14-15