

Acts # 47 “Philip the Evangelist” Acts 8:26-40

We don't belong to this world, we are just passing through and the world system will hate us because we belong to

Jesus Christ because it hated Him first.

And whether we like it or accept it; we're in a spiritual battle, facing invisible enemies.

If you're a Christian, you're in a war you didn't start; a war you can't escape from but a war that's been strategically won by Jesus Christ; a war that can also be experientially won by you if you make a serious effort to learn and apply biblical truth.

Good News: When persecution against the church intensified, church growth, not only in number but also in spiritual strength, accelerated as a result of satanically motivated attacks!

It's extremely challenging to think of leaving a place where there's been a wonderful ministry and go to a place where there are not even people because Philip's ministry has everything whatsoever to do with people, he's an evangelist.

There are two reasons why Philip gets a change of venue:

1. God has an important job for Philip and through the conversion of one African that he will meet in the desert, the Gospel will go to a great country in Africa at that time, known as Ethiopia.
2. *Apparently to leave Philip there where he was any longer would possibly ruin his ministry with too much success.*

Philip is removed from the scene of a revival and he's going to be used to contact just one person and this will be the basis of an even greater revival than the one in Samaria because this is one of the first inroads into the great continent of Africa.

The more we memorize things, the more we'll remember things.

The more we train our mind to remember things the easier it will become and the more we will remember.

And who knows what kind of an impact that might have down through the years if we get Alzheimer's or some other form of dementia?

The Ethiopian is reading but not understanding its meaning and the fact that he questions the passage indicates that he is positive toward God and His Word.

No one in this life can fully understand biblical truth unless he gets it from someone who knows the Word.

In other words, you cannot sit down and fully understand the Bible by reading it and God has taken up the slack by giving a gift to some men called pastor-teacher.

Every believer after salvation starts out as a baby and babies have to be taught and there is no believer in the world who can get it all on his own without someone starting him right.

Philip had enough biblical truth to give this man a basic training course in a short time; do you?

Jesus Christ is depicted as the Lamb through the Levitical sacrifices and here is Jesus Christ being led as a sheep to the slaughter, the cross where He died for our sins.

The humiliation was Jesus Christ, sinless and perfect in His deity as well as His humanity, coming into contact with our sins.

The life of Jesus Christ on the cross was carried by death as the sins of the world were poured out upon Him.

The wages of sin is death and so as the wages of sin are poured out upon Him; in His life He carries our death.

Our sins are poured out upon Him and the penalty of those sins is death and so Jesus Christ carries our death when

He hangs upon our cross.

Philip baptized him because he understood the appropriate biblical truth because as we all know; ritual without reality is meaningless.

This Ethiopian was so ready for God's Word that on the very day he was saved, he learned enough biblical truth to make himself spiritually self-sustaining as he goes back rejoicing to his own land as the only convert in Ethiopia.

The result of this eunuch's conversion was a tremendous evangelistic push in Ethiopia, so that Ethiopia developed a brand of Christianity that held out against the Muslims when all other types of Christianity collapsed 600 years later.

Everything else in North Africa fell apart, so this tells us that Ethiopian Christianity was founded on the Word of God stressing two things: 1) Communicating the Word of God in evangelism; 2) Feeding new believers basic Bible doctrine.

This Ethiopian already believes in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Philip only has to clarify an answer to his question as to who Isaiah is referring to because this man already understands who Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echad is.

This man already und the concept of biblical prophecy; he knows God speaks through His designated prophets.

He doesn't have to be convinced that Isaiah wrote 700 years ago about events that would come to pass in his lifetime.

The Ethiopian knows full well that a righteous God requires a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.

He knows all about redemption and reconciliation; that his sins must be paid for.

The Ethiopian hadn't connected the dots regarding our Lord's crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session related to Isaiah's and other prophecies but that changed quickly because he was positive and at that point, God was therefore obligated by His own integrity related to His promises to provide clear accurate information on which this man could make the greatest, most important decision in life: to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved from future judgment.

