

MY WITNESSES

ACTS 8:1-8

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: See **John 4:34-42, fn 4:36-38**.

WERE PERSECUTED BY SAUL (PAUL). “This hateful opposition was brutal. The word behind Paul’s ‘ravaging’ {v. 3, NASV; NIV, ‘destroy’} suggests sadistic cruelty, like a wild boar tearing a victim’s body apart. Paul later described himself as a having been a graceless, vindictive man...”, Kent Hughes, *Acts*, page 109. (**Acts 8:1-3, fn 8:1-4, Acts 22:1-5, Galatians 1:13, 14, fn 1:13, 14, John 15:20-16:4, fn 16:1-16, fn 16:2, Revelation 2:9-11, fn 2:9, 10**) *Are you more likely to be persecuted for sharing your faith or a life of good works? Explain.*

WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT JUDEA AND SAMARIA. The term “scattered throughout or abroad” was used as in a farmer sowing seeds in the ground for crops. Warren Wiersbe, *Be Dynamic*, page 99. God used the persecution of the church to scatter the believers. (**Acts 8:4, fn 8:4, Acts 1:8, fn 1:8[4th], Matthew 13:3, 4, 37, Romans 10:14, 15, fn 10:14, 15, Matthew 28:19, fn 28:18-20**) *How could your TD group become seeds for starting new groups?*

HAVE PREACHED THE WORD AND PROCLAIMED CHRIST. Preaching in Acts 8:4 does not mean standing in a pulpit and proclaiming Christ as Stephen did in verse 5 but telling or “gossiping” in ordinary conversation about the wonderful news that they had believed. Martyn Lloyd Jones, *Compelling Christianity*, page 44. (**Acts 8:4-8, II Timothy 4:1, 2, fn 4:1, 2, I Peter 3:13-17, fn 3:15, Colossians 4:6, Isaiah 55:11**) *How has God brought circumstances in your life to encourage you to tell others the wonderful news and perhaps lead a small group?*

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?