

Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2022

What can you learn from Stephen's passing? Acts 7:54-60

(Good News for those who are true believers and those who will receive Christ)

Prelude Marjorie Lampkin - Pianist

Hymn ~ 259 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Reading: Acts 7:54-60 Jean Bryant

Prayer

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting: The Sutherlands

Hymn ~ 251 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Sermon

Hymn ~ 250 O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Lord's Supper

Hymn ~ 513 Thank You, Lord

Tithes & Offerings Please use the wooden **offering box** or *mail your offering to: PO Box 24, Lancaster, VA 22503. Thank you!*

Historic White Marsh Church is an independent, Bible believing, teaching, and Christ-loving Bible Church. We are made up of Christians from diverse backgrounds, who are going to the same place (heaven) because of Jesus Christ our Savior.

News: Pray for the B people as Tim and Kathy minister to them.

Membership: If you are interested in becoming a member of Historic White Marsh Church, please talk to Rev. Wes Hall.

Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 13 at 1:00 PM – Anyone is welcome.

Christmas Luncheon: Sunday, December 18 after worship.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24 at 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship Service at 11:00 AM

Historic White Marsh Church

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Website: historicwhitemarsh.com Church email: historicwhitemarsh@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 PM

YOU DO NOT NEED TO FEAR DEATH.

Stephen had peace in his heart even in the face of an agonizing death.

YOU HAVE MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO AFTER DEATH.

Stephen was given a glorious glance into heaven before his death. V. 54-56 He saw the glory of God and his Savior, Jesus Christ.

YOU CAN BE READY TO DIE.

Stephen was very ready to be with the Lord. V. 59

He knew that he was saved, and he knew where he was going.

If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you can have the same assurance of heaven that Stephen had. Although you may not look forward to dying, you can always look forward to being with Jesus.

YOU CAN FORGIVE THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU.

Stephen demonstrated love for his enemies. V. 60

He didn't want revenge. He prayed for them. Stephen's response was Christ-like. Jesus interceded for those who put Him to death.

THE MOMENT AFTER DEATH IS PLEASANT FOR THE BELIEVER.

After death, you are in heaven with the Lord. v. 60

"...He fell asleep." The death of a Christian is described in a pleasant, non-threatening way in the Scripture. "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:8

Wes Hall

Study Questions on Acts 7:54-60

1. What was Stephen' demeanor as he faced trial and possible death? Acts 6:15
2. Why do believers not need to fear death?
3. What was Paul's attitude about life and death in Philippians 1:21-24?
4. What amazing thing did Stephen see before death? How do you think that experience might have comforted Stephen? What do you have to look forward to?
5. How can you be ready to die?
6. What things did Stephen do before his death that reminds you of Christ?
7. If Stephen could forgive those people for what they did to him, what should you be able to forgive others for doing to you?
8. What do you think the moment after Stephen died was like for him?
9. Why does verse 60 say that Stephen fell asleep?

2022 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Report

It is with great joy that we wind up this year's shoebox project, having surpassed our goal of 605 shoeboxes by 116 boxes. We literally used every box we had in the building! (721)

The constant prayer as our congregation packs their boxes is that we will bring the hope offered through Jesus Christ to a world of spiritual darkness. It is a serious business as we head out to win souls to Christ, obeying God's command to reach the world for Christ (Matthew 28:19, 20). But it is such a source of joy for ourselves, it seems impossible that we could be doing such important spiritual business.

One of my favorite questions is, "How will you pay for this?" My answer is always the same, "If God is leading us, He will provide." He truly has. Several months ago, the board voted to purchase 600 plastic boxes at a cost of \$1.75 each. I wonder, how much do you think it cost our church budget to send out 721 shoeboxes this year? Many people with hearts touched by the love of Christ made donations, both financially and in shoebox "stuffings". Some savvy shoppers have learned to search out some really good sales. The money spent directly on shoeboxes, by the church budget, which was not covered by these special gifts came to \$1.53 per box.

Prayers have been answered for wisdom about what to purchase, good prices, and that God would provide both the right items and supply the need of the child who will receive the gift.

God calls us to be an example of love and good works and our example as a church of carrying out this project has been an outreach to our community as an example and a challenge. This has opened us to serve our Lord Jesus in a special way. Our faith has been challenged to trust God for His provision.

What has serving Christ done to increase your Love for Jesus and his children?

Hebrews 10:24 Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Let each care for others and exhort others to love and to do good works both by word and example.