

# “What a Way to Die”

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2, 51-60

INTRODUCTION: *If you could choose the way you'd die...*

- I. STEPHEN: STONED TO DEATH, What a Way to Die
  - A. The trial was a farce
  - B. The mob was loud and vicious
  - C. He didn't deserve it
  - D. His “crime” was standing up for Jesus in public
  
- II. STANDING UP FOR JESUS TODAY BRINGS ATTACK
  - A. Bill McCartney and *The Promise Keepers*
  - B. Reggie White of the *Green Bay Packers*
  - C. James Dobson and his *Focus on the Family*
  - D. More Christians martyred in last 100 yrs than 2000 years previous
  - E. Common people today at work & school...
  
- III. BUT - LOOK AT STEPHEN... WATCH HOW HE DIES
  - A. He looks to heaven & what does he see? (vv.55-56)
  - B. He sees Jesus at the Father's right hand (Jn. 14:1-3)
  - C. In the face of death (and attack) we look to Jesus
  - D. Looking is not all Stephen does; He testifies of Jesus
  - E. We are called to do the same today
  
- IV. KEEP LOOKING HOW STEPHEN DIES...
  - A. He looks, he testifies, **and** he trusts & forgives (vv.59-60)
  - B. Attacked or dying, **we** trust & forgive
  - C. Stephen: loved by Jesus - **what a way to die!**
  - D. These aren't easy days for Christians either
  - E. But in life or in death we are the Lord's!

CONCLUSION: *So, if we could choose the way to die...*