

Sermon Outline

“What a Way to Die” Acts 7:58-60

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 year 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...*