

# IF YOU COULD CHOOSE THE WAY TO DIE

ACTS 7:58-60



SERMON OUTLINE FOR MAY 18, 2014

## “If You Could Choose the Way to Die”

Acts 7:58-60

INTRODUCTION: *If you could choose the way you will die . . .*

- I. STEPHEN: STONED TO DEATH, What a Way to Die
  - A. The trial was a farce; the mob was loud and vicious
  - B. He didn't deserve it.
  - C. His “crime” was standing up for Jesus in public
- II. STANDING UP FOR JESUS TODAY BRINGS ATTACK
  - A. The Nigerian school girls kidnapped from their Christian school
  - B. Bill McCartney and *The Promise Keepers*
  - C. James Dobson and his *Focus on the Family*
  - D. The kidnapped Nigerian school girls . . .
  - E. More Christians martyred in last 100 years than 2000 years previous
  - F. 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 (John 14:1-3)
  - C. In the face of death (and attack) we look to Jesus
  - D. Looking is not all he 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 . . .*