



## All Citizens Christian Church

**Bible Study:** Thursday, January 07 2016.

**Topic:** Acts 7.

**INTRODUCTION:** Acts Chapter 6 ended with the arrest of Stephen and Chapter 7 started with his trial. Chapter 7 looks like a one issue chapter and we are going to examine it as such.

We will not read the entire chapter as I presume we might have read it at home. Stephen's speech was a great one but it contributed largely to his death and to the persecution that visited the church thereafter. True, it played out to the advantage of the church by the tremendous growth that followed due to the scattering but I don't know if we will like to play the role of Stephen.

Just like Stephen's speech led to his death there are many speeches that also lead to the death of relationships, church gatherings and other forms of association.

In this study we want to take a critical look at Stephen approach to this speech. May the Lord help us with understanding tonight.

Remember brethren we are all students and so we should all contribute very freely. I do not intend to chide anyone for a wrong and right answer.

### **BELOW IS THE BREAKDOWN OF STEPHEN'S SPEECH.**

- The Call of Abraham
- The Patriarchs in Egypt
- God Delivers Israel by Moses
- Israel Rebels Against God
- God's True Tabernacle
- Israel Resists the Holy Spirit
- Stephen the Martyr

In this speech when did things appear to begin to go wrong?

1. What does the death of Stephen teach us about speeches? Prov 18:21, Ecc 7:12
2. What is the aim of your speech. Rebuke, teach, bless etc. but what is the ultimate aim. Col 4:6. II Tim 4:2, Titus 1:13, I Tim 5:20.
3. At various times in the ministry there were sharp rebukes of what was going on or what went wrong. An example is in Peter's speech in Acts 2 and Paul's speech in Acts 17. However, we need wisdom as we round off these speeches. Let's compare Stephen's speech to Paul's speech at Athens. Acts 17:16-34.
4. Make every effort to give people a good perception of your word. Prov 25:11-12, James 1:26
5. If you were Stephen, would you have preferred to answer the Stephen's way
6. What affects the way you speak? Eph 4:22-29, Col 3:8-9, Gal 6:7-9, Prov 4:23, Luke 6:45, Mark 7:21-23.
7. What part of your life should wisdom play a very major role? Action or speech or both. Prov 4:7-9, Luke 10:42.
8. What is the effect of good speech to relationship? James 3:1-10, Acts 6:2-5, Acts 15:36-41, Psalm 34: 12-14

**CONCLUSION:** Having taken a critical look at this speech, how would you begin to consider your speech? Will you rather speak first and think later or think first and speak after. I Peter 3:10 says For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. God expects us to have great relationship so His work might have an upward trend. For this to happen we must learn the acts of living together.