

44-Acts-Pt06-Transcript

but he left one final warning 1984 is I believe a quite terrifying masterpiece so terrifying in fact i don't think i should like to read another like it I'm not absolutely dissatisfied with it I think it's a good idea but the execution would have been better if I had not been under the influence of TB when I wrote it you once claimed that you have an ability to face unpleasant facts is that what you demonstrated in 1984 by drawing an accurate portrait of the future I think that allowing for the book being after all a parody something like 1984 could actually happen this is the direction the world is going in at the present time in our world there will be no emotions except fear rage triumph and self-abasement there will be no loyalty except loyalty to the party but always there will be the intoxication of power always at every moment there will be the thrill of victory the sensation of trampling on enemy who is helpless if you want a picture of the future imagine a boot stamping on a human face forever the moral to be drawn from this dangerous nightmare situation is a simple one don't let it happen it depends on you

you

you

you

I think he may have just missed the sound I was just saying that I hope that that clip had an impact on you it certainly did me when I came across it and i refer to george orwell now as the secular profit I mean I give him nine out of 10 on his prophecy and I'll explain why why why not 10 out of 10 but you know he apologized for the book 1984

I don't think he needed to apologize for he said it was a great concept but he didn't execute it well because he was suffering from tuberculosis I think it was a very very very good read he said that he has the ability to place to face unpleasant facts and Christians we Christians must face unpleasant facts in fact if you read chapter 15 and 16 of the Gospel of John if you read chapter 24 of the Gospel of Matthew if you read the entire book of Revelation Jesus Christ is sharing with us very unpleasant facts and he expects us to be spiritually mature enough to face these facts George or was that he had a sense of the direction the world is going could see the direction the world is going and that where it was going is there would be no emotion except fear rage triumph and self-abasement and we're actually seeing that we're seeing where the world is full of terror everyone's afraid I accept those who feel victorious and triumphant in fact even they are acting out of fear and there's this sense of self-abasement that they can never be the perfect person so they have to try to be the perfect person but that's not them that's their profit he's the only perfect man and so there's a sense of self loathing that they have that there's no loyalty that there's no no union between a man and a woman there's no true love only to the party that's the only loyalty that there will be that always there'll be the thrill of victory the sensation of trampling on an enemy who has helpless and that's the Russia but you know my life is awful I have I really have nothing going on in my life but I get the thrill of victory when I can stamp on an enemy who is

helpless and he says here Ethan ends his prophecy saying if you want a picture of the future imagine a boot stamping on a human face forever well he's wrong there he's partially right it will happen but not forever this comes from the hatred that Satan has for the human being the human being that is made in God's image and Satan hates that and so he's trying to destroy that image of God and then George Orwell says the moral of this is don't let it happen he took sort of his last energy that he had he's on his deathbed don't let it happen and then he says mistakenly it depends on you it actually doesn't depend on you you have a choice you're invited to participate in the church that will put a stop to this that Jesus Christ is returning and he will put a stop to this hatred that is that is engulfing the world is violence that is engulfing the world he stopped it before he'll stop it again he's coming really soon and there's an invitation for you to repent and to become part of the church that will establish the kingdom of peace on the earth it doesn't depend on you the gates of Hell will not prevail against this church and what we're seeing is we're studying the book of Acts is is how Satan's wrath is unleashed on the church and how he's trying to destroy you the church by any means necessary but how through the power of the Holy Spirit the church cannot be destroyed we are now in the age of Pentecost the church age leading up to trumpets which is the return of Christ in the establishment of his kingdom and the gates of Hell will not prevail against Christ depend his church and christ obviously we read of the resurrection the gates of hell did not prevail against

nor will it prevail against the church
so let's get into this study continuing
in the book of Acts going into chapter 6
will just begin with a word of Prayer
our Heavenly Father we come to you with
grateful hearts we thank you Father that
we can open your word that we can
understand it that we can be encouraged
by it and strengthened by it and that we
can have insight into the future we
thank you that men is brilliant as
george orwell are here we're here and
can share with us their insights but we
thank you God for your insights that we
don't babe that we have very little
understanding that we can open your word
and have more understanding than some of
the most intellectual people on the
planet we thank you Father we praise you
and we asked you you would bless us now
as we continue the study of the book of
Acts so before we get into acts I'd like
to to go back in time to Genesis and he
says here and I'm really grateful that
you're with us this evening I hope
you'll continue in this study is just so
fascinating to open God's Word but this
future that george orwell was seeing
says you want a picture of the future
picture of boot stamping on a human face
forever the reason that you could see
the world heading in this direction is
nothing is new Under the Sun this we
actually have to go back in time and
Genesis is all about beginning origins
we can't really understand our world
today without the book of Genesis when
we go back in time we can understand the
root of everything where everything
began and where things were set in
motion and we can now look at the
present we can turn on the news not CNN
I hope because that's just propaganda
but if we can actually get real news we

can see where all these things began but he says here in Genesis 11 and verse 4 and they said go to let us build as a city and a tower notice it's two things it's a city that's representing political power and a tower that's representing religion power and that's where nimrod would be seated on the throne on this tower and any understood he understood that to control to have totalitarian control over mankind it's a combination of religious ideology to control the mind and brainwash the mind and political power and so a totalitarian system must have these two elements and then control the economy whose top may reach unto heaven and let us make us a name lest we be scattered abroad on the face of the whole earth and so that's their fear that they'll come to nothing and that's why they hate mankind so much and I have to control them because they don't want Christ terrain and bring them to an end and so what began here in Genesis 11 and verse 4 has been carrying on for thought for millennia and what we're seeing as we look into the future of what george orwell was beginning to see as he wrote 1984 and the day people get caught up with the day he wasn't talking about the date 1984 that actually was a nod to his university school University a hundred years after its founding but he was nineteen eighty-four really means the future and what he's seeing as he's peering into this future is this totalitarian system that hates mankind and it's nothing new nothing is new Under the Sun he spoke in 1984 of this new language called newspeak and he's trying to wake us up anything don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range

of thought that's what it's all about
removing words from the language so you
can't think in the end we shall make
thoughtcrime literally impossible
because there'll be no words in which to
express it and Christians Christians do
not engage in you speak we call it today
political correctness and I hear
Christians censoring other Christians
because what we are saying is
politically incorrect this is
disobedience to Jesus Christ Jesus
Christ says what I tell you in darkness
that speak you in the light and what you
hear in the ear that preach you upon the
house
in other words have no regard for
political correctness what I'm giving
you these words of life that I'm giving
you they are going to be politically
incorrect those who follow the way of
Nimrod are not going to appreciate what
Jesus Christ has to say they're not
going to appreciate the truth of the
gospel so we Christians can't be looking
over our shoulder and say oh dear oh no
I can't say we can't say get rid of that
we must speak the truth of God boldly
fearlessly in obedience to our Lord and
Master Jesus Christ we must declare it
from the housetops we're not embarrassed
were not ashamed of the gospel so let's
get into the study now before i get to
acts 6 i want to begin actually in John
12 and this is sort of a John 12 in a
bit of John 15 before we get to act 6 as
context as backdrop 4x6 notice here in
John 12 beginning in verse 20 it says
and there were certain Greeks among them
that came up to worship at the feast so
these would be these would be Grecian
Jews coming to worship at the feast the
same came therefore to Philip which was
of Bethsaida of Galilee and desired him

saying sir we would see Jesus we want to see Jesus Philip comes and tells Andrew and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus so there's these people that came to worship with the feast and they would like to see Jesus so they come and they tell Jesus Andrew and Philip come and tell Jesus that there are people that want to come and see you notice Jesus's answer and Jesus answered them saying the hour is come that the son of man should be glorified this this is what Satan hates and you cannot stop it and so Christ is now saying this is it the hours come when the son of man should be glorified truly truly I say to you except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abides alone but if it dies it brings forth much fruit so this is kind of like a disconnect Jesus there's some people who come to worship with the face and they'd like to see you well truly truly if a corner of we'd fall into the ground and die unless it falls into the ground and dies it abides alone but if it dies it will bring forth much fruit um we were just saying that somebody people would like to see you so he's saying here that the corn unless it's buried it cannot we cannot yield forth much fruit same like same with him that he must die in order to bring forth much fruit and and it's much fruit we are that fruit the church is going to be very large and Ian Christ is going to please the pioneer of our salvation he's going to bring many sons into glory so these people want to see Christ and his answer is I have to die in order to bring forth much fruit and then he says but if it if it died brings forth much fruit verse 25 he that loves his life shall lose it and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it

unto life eternal so these people are coming they want to see Jesus they want to become Christians and his answer is if you love this life you're going to lose it Christians hello wake up if you love this life you're going to lose it if you hate this life in other words you have a vision of the Resurrection you have a vision of the kingdom of God and you are so in love with the appearing of Christ and the future and the end of this stomping on the human face forever you want to put that hatred to an end and you see a world of peace of abundance of love and you're all in if you are that type of Christian you're going to find your life and you're not going to fall into new speak and you're not going to be silenced with political correctness you're going to preach the gospel you're going to speak the truth and you're going to be part of the fruit that Christ is going to bring with him he that loves his life shall lose it and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal in other words when were faced with trial we were faced with persecution it's no cost compared to the prize we keep our eyes on the prize so these people want to see Christ and his answer to fill up an andrew is if any man served me let him follow me so he just finished saying that the corn abides alone unless it's it dies and it's planted then it yields forth much fruit that's his path that's what it means to follow Christ so if you if you want to see Christ if you want to be a Christian you need to do a priced it and and for the joy that was set before him he endured the cross and so we are Christians for the joy that is set before us for the release of mankind suffering we will endure the crops just

as that's what that's what it means to
be Christian If any man serve me let him
follow after me and where I am there
shall also my servant be so the servant
is not above the master where Christ is
that's where we are if any man serve me
him will my father honor so so this is
the our fruit for Christ's glory if we
follow him and honor him the father will
honor us now is my soul trouble so he
just finished saying that the corn has
to die and he says and that this is the
hour for him to be glorified but it
troubled him now is my soul troubled and
what shall I say father save me from
this hour but for this cause came i unto
this hour so he sees what he has to face
it's very troubling to him it should he
asked to escape it no but the whole
reason the Creator came into the
creation was to save mankind to save
mankind from that hatred that George
Orwell understood so well so he cannot
say well I don't want to suffer because
you know I don't I don't want to endure
any pain and yet look at all the pain
and the suffering in the earth he came
to relieve man
from this suffering so he has to go
through this father glorify your name
then came there a voice from heaven
saying I have both glorified it and will
glorify it again the people there for
that stood by and heard it said that it
thundered others said an angel spoke to
him jesus answered and said this voice
came not because of me but for your
sakes now is the judgment of this world
this world has been judged now shall the
prince of this world be cast out so that
prophecy that vision that george orwell
said that this hatred of mankind this is
stamping in the human face with a boot
forever and ever that that's the future

no it's not Christ is the future George
Orwell wasn't a Christian he didn't
understand the scriptures and so Christ
says that though the one behind this
hatred has been judged and he's been
cast out and I Christ if I be lifted up
from the earth that is to be crucified I
will draw all men unto me so this is
that all men have to face Jesus Christ
every knee shall bow to Jesus Christ and
so you know we're appealing to you now
repent come to Christ be devoted to
christ be a part of the solution not a
part of the problem but you're going to
have to face Christ one way or the other
all men will be drawn unto him after his
crucified his crucifixion this he said
signifying what death he should die the
people answered him we have heard out of
the law that Christ abides forever so
they have studied the law and they see
in the prophecies that the Messiah
abides forever how do you say that the
son of man must be lifted up who is this
son of man of course we have to go to
Daniel 7 to see that the Son of Man is
Christ is the son of God then it's
actually have a very exalted title then
jesus said unto them yet a little while
is the light with you walk while you
have the light less darkness come upon
you for he that walks in darkness knows
not where he goes and certainly there's
a darkness that is just covering the
earth now and part of it has to do with
this new speak this political
correctness this removing words from our
vocabulary so that we can't think
straight we can't analyze what's right
in front of us that that's this darkness
that's coming over the earth while you
have light believe in the light that you
may be children of the light children of
light these things spoke Jesus and

departed and it hide himself from them
but though he had done so many miracles
before them yet they believed not on him
so all these miracles and they were all
to bless people Jesus always blessed
others he always helped and even though
they saw all of this goodness in this
miraculous power they still didn't
believe that the saying of Isaiah the
prophet might be fulfilled which he
spoke Lord who has believed our report
to whom has the arm of the Lord been
revealed so there's a process working
out here and unless we're invited we're
not going to understand we're not going
to believe now John 15 bit more
backdrops or where this the same book
just further down in the book now he
says to us this or he says to the
disciples and by extension to us I am
The True Vine so that means there's
false vines you can you can latch on to
a false vine but Christ is the true vine
and my father is the husbandmen again
Christ and the father are one you can't
have one without the other it's a
package deal it's a family deal too he's
the true vine and his father is the
husband men notice this remember these
people approached Christ and they wanted
to see him and so Philip an Android told
Christ hey these people want to follow
you and he said you know what I have to
die in order to bring forth much fruit
now he says every branch in me that bear
is not fruit he takes away so if you're
going to follow Christ but you're going
to be fruitless that's going to be
pointless the whole point of being a
Christian is to bear fruit to get out of
yourself too
look at the world and look at the
suffering in the world and to realize
that the only solution is Christ and to

bring that solution to the world and to bear much fruit so every branch that's in Christ so so there are Christians but they're not bearing fruit he takes away and every branch that bears fruit he purges it that it may bring forth more fruit so the true Christian becomes unstoppable even in death we bear fruit or unstoppable because it's the Holy Spirit working in us to bear this fruit so Christ said i am the corn and i have to die to bring forth much fruit it's your wish my father's will that you bring forth much fruit so I'm The True Vine my father's going to work with you so that you can be in me and bear fruit now you are a clean through the word which I have spoken unto you abide in me and I in you so abide in christ and I this is all backdrop to where we're going in at six stay in Christ and he'll stay in you because the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine and this is where Gamaliel last week when we looked at it he said to them leave this work alone because if it's not of God it's going to collapse but is it is it if it is of God you don't want to be found to be fighting God and so here what Christ is telling us is that we're going to face a very hostile audience and if we do not abide in christ we're not going to have the stomach to face it we're going to be censoring each other because of we're afraid we're going to be we're going to be doing the work of Satan and using political correctness to silence each other and prevent each other from bearing fruit but if we're filled with the Holy Spirit we're going to pray for boldness and we're going to preach the gospel from the rooftops and so he says here abide in me and I in you as the

branch cannot bear fruit of itself
except it abide in the vine that's the
only way no more can you accept you
abide in me this is the only way you've
got
they and me the Holy Spirit has to be
working in you my word has to be working
in you I am the vine you are the
branches again he's the true vine he
that abides in me and I in him the same
brings forth much fruit and again
remember Christ said that he's the corn
he has to die to bring forth fruit where
that fruit now he's saying to us he's
the vine and where the fruit were in the
vine but God's will the father's will is
that we bring forth much fruit so now
he's in heaven as the head of the church
where in the body and and what he's
doing the same work that's what Luke is
showing us that the same work that he
did in the Gospel of Luke he's doing in
acts and and he's continuing to do it
through this age of Pentecost right up
to trumpets and so now we are Christ in
the earth and the will for God is that
we bring forth more Christians that we
bring more people to repentance that we
bring more people into the church this
is the fruit that we're to bring forth
for without me you can do nothing it's
impossible what what we're facing the
way the world is going that that picture
that George Orwell painted were
ineffective in such a hostile
environment but when the father is
watching over us and Christ is in us
we're unstoppable greater is He that is
in me than he that is in the world if a
man abide not in me this is a very
powerful warning from Christ directly if
we don't abide in christ then the father
sees to it that were cast forth as a
branch and we wither and men hostile men

men under the influence of Satan gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned so we have a choice either we stay in Christ and abide in him and bear much fruit or we don't and we dry up and become withered and we're gathered and were burned if you abide in me and my words abide in you you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you

herein is my father glorified that you bear much fruit now we go to looks like I may have lost you

I'm just wondering if you have fast if ur still sound

libera having some technical difficulties

nothing

effects

time

no I guess I think it just just type

there is me you could just say

stand by

Oh Lady Texas

okay so some people have sound

see

okay so it looks like I'm back great so

I'm just a bit of technical difficulty

there but let's that the Word of God

continues so we have to bear fruit here

and continue with the work so all of

this is about drop now to the book of

Acts and so we're going to get to

chapter 6 of Acts tonight just before we

do let me just do a quick recap of some

of the verses in the previous chapters

remember in Chapter two it says in verse

41 then they that gladly received his

word were baptized and the same day they

were added unto them about three

thousand souls so this is the fruit this

is the much fruit that the church is

barren because their abiding in Christ

and then he's abiding in them so three

thousand souls added then in verse 47 of Acts to praising God and having favor with all the people and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved this is the fruit that they are bearing as a result of abiding in Christ they remember in chapter 4 and verse 4 it says howbeit many of them which heard the word believed and the number of men was about five thousand so now we've gone from 3,000 to 5,000 men maybe you know with women and children this is ten fifteen twenty thousand we're not sure but it's a big number and this is the fruit and then in verse 5 and verse 14 and believers were the more added to the Lord multitudes both of men and women and then in verse 42 of chapter 5 and daily in the temple and in every house they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ and just so you can just see this growth of fruit based on the church abiding in Christ and being the body as Christ as the head just as I'm on this point here on they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ and they were in every house just this week there's been a ban on evangelism in Russia and I'll just show you the article here where it says here in Christianity today Russia's ban on evangelism is now in effect yesterday Russia's new anti-terrorism laws which restrict Christians from evangelizing outside of their churches went into effect so so there's this Islamic terrorism all over the world and Russians are afraid of it and so they pass laws to ban Christians from evangelizing you Christians are suffering under this terrorism and the answer is stop evangelizing so it says here it requires missionaries to have permits makes house churches illegal so

if you're in Russia you can't have a bible study at home anymore as of July twentieth and it limits religious activity into register church building so only the church is that they recognize can you have church activity anything else you're gone so I just saved to basically showing how from house to house the early church was preaching the gospel and it may come to that for us and we've got to do that no matter what and this kind of legislation we might see it in other countries besides Russia so now we come to acts 6 so after all of this growth and adding of fruit it says and in those days when the number of the disciples was multiplied so the church is growing their bearing much fruit that the fathers well there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily administration and so what we've seen here is really an attack on the church the Satan is trying to destroy this fledgling church that just is getting off the ground first through direct persecution that only made the church stronger then he tried infiltration we saw that with Ananias and Sapphira false brethren creeping into the church trying to get into the foundation of the church and get into leadership position we saw that stopped and now what we're seeing in chapter 6 is perhaps the worst on the worst attack that Satan can have and it were true brethren inside the church murmur and complain against the leadership you know this is a loving church people are all together have I've all things in common nobody lacks anything to the best but the church is just growing so fast so there are logistical problems here instead of

going to the Apostles and saying you know did you realize that the Grecian widows are not being looked after there's this low tone whispering in the corner trying to you know turn people against the leadership and and what we see here is this is now stopped so that the foundation of the church goes without any so there's no success that the enemy has against the foundation of the church because the gates of Hell will not prevail and we need to constantly go back to this foundation to remember our strengths now the gifts of the Spirit are what are prevailing that we saw the gift of tongues Oh in every language they could hear we saw the gift of prophecy they were talking about Joel and and the future we saw these gifts of healings that really impacted the people faith we saw knowledge we saw with Ananias and Sapphira Peter having that just even though they were acting and talking like everybody else the discerning of spirits and now we're going to see in chapter 6 is wisdom how they deal with this problem the church is just growing and multiplying there's these logistical problems and now we have I believe these are Grecians these are Greek Jews against the Hebrew Hebrew Jews I don't think these are Gentiles in the church at this point because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration so this could be some human racism kicking in where people are just looking after their own it could just be an oversight we're not really sure what's going on but the fact is that the Grecian widows were not being looked after then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them so they heard this murmuring and they said you know it's not reasonable that we

should leave the Word of God and serve tables so remember these are the Apostles and Christ has said to them about the corn having to be buried in order to bear much fruit and now he's saying to them you are going to be my martyrs you're going to be my martyrs jerusalem in judea and samaria and in all the world go go and take this gospel and be like me and so they realized their priority is to bear much fruit that's the father's will they have to take this word and they have to abide in Christ and be filled with the spirit in order to face the hostility that's all around them and get this gospel message out now they're seeing a distraction so this is becoming a big issue this daily administration and they're saying it's unreasonable that we should shift our priority and even though it's really important this is life and death if these widows are not looked after they could die they could certainly be become very sick if they're not getting proper nutrition etc so this is a critical matter but their priority as apostles must be to preach the Word of God into this hostile audience and so the body has to work together you know we have different functions and different roles and they say you know we have to stick to our function therefore this is now the wisdom that comes upon them brethren you look out among you seven men of honest report and why they chose 7 I'm not sure there's some probably logistical reason for that so find seven men of honest report full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom whom we the Apostles may appoint over this business so the church is a body it functions as a body there are different roles it's not okay guys you look after this and do whatever

you want it's no we are in the leadership role but here's what here's our judgment on this matter you go and find seven men here are the criteria to look for bring them to us and we will appoint them they will delegate authority to them over this business or over this matter and again it's a critical matter in the church but it's logistical and they have they have a role they have to preach the Word of God but we will give ourselves notice this continually to prayer and to the Ministry of the word so they understand 2020 when Christ said to them abide in me and I

you because without me you will not you can do nothing so it's my father's will that you bear much fruit but you have to abide in me so they're seeing now if they have to look after all of these logistics they're going to be unable to really abide in christ to this to the extent that they have to in order to preach the word in such a hostile audience but without Christ they're going to have fear they're going to be they're going to succumb to political correctness and believe me there was a political correctness is not new it goes all the way back to Nimrod so so here they say we've got it could devote ourselves continually to prayer and that's going to and then enable us to preach the word and so when they gave this wisdom when they said this is our judgment what could have been very disruptive with what could have really fractured the church and maybe turn the church into our to racial camps instead the same pleased the whole multitude everybody saw the wisdom in this and saw that while you know we do this and they can continue to preach the word and so

this is great so they followed the criteria and these men now there are seven men that are just living their lives doing their thing but then there's this this moment happens and suddenly they come to the forefront they're not seeking the forefront they're just needed and the Apostles give the the multi multitude the congregation they give them the criteria and they select these men first one you mentioned is Steven a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit and and he really emphasizes Steven again Luke's purpose in writing acts is to validate the ministry of Paul and in these early chapters I think right up to chapter 13 he's just rushing he's just giving Theophilus as much context as is necessary and there's this sort of race to get to Paul and then when he gets to paulie's gonna slow down but he wants to call out Stephen and contrast Stephen and Paul and then show that the very things that Stephen did and the very things that Stephen suffered as an extension of Christ Paul is going to do suffer those things again he's validating the Ministry of Paul as the Ministry of Jesus Christ and so they chose Stephen a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit and Philip and prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and parmenas and Nicholas a proselyte of Antioch so these are the seven deacons and in the word Deacon a noun Deacon is not found here but the word the verb Deacon did to Justine dia con el dia con el to serve to minister and so that was their role whom then so they chose these men they chose the man that was what they were asked to do and then they brought the men to the Apostles whom they said before the Apostles and when the

Apostles had prayed they laid their hands on them so this laying on of hands symbolizing the transfer of authority from the apostle on Christ to the apostles and from the Apostles to the deacons and and that that more ordination now of the document and though and as a result of this now this is also where Satan is trying to work inside the concrete and cause a fracture and in Philippians Paul tells us do all things without murmuring don't murmur don't complain don't be off in a corner whispering know if there's an issue come and just talk about it and let's keep the church healthy and as a result of that the Word of God increased and the number of disciples multiplied so we saw this multiplication is multiplication multiplication and these various attacks first persecution no boldness that took Church multiplies then we saw this trip effort to infiltrate know that discernment we caught that and people feared but other people believed and now we see this murmuring and and here is well you see you know a lot of people are against organizations there's no such thing as organization the church should not be organized here you see a very practical solution we need to be organized you know we're going to do this you're going to do that and then people who typically are against organization what you'll see is there ineffective you know they do nothing they talk they do a lot of talking but they don't have any impact and really for us to have impact we have to work together we have to be organized but they do have a point when they say that organizations can create division and that is certainly true and you do see that word where people form

organizations and then they think they're better than everybody else I think nobody can accuse CGI of that I think we know we are the church of god but we're not the Church of God we're a part of the Church of God we're an administration in the Church of God and I think it's important for us as Christians not to speak ill of each other that that if somebody has a work and somebody wants to break out and start their own organization god be with you and if he's not your work is going to come to nothing it's going to collapse but if he is with you Godspeed and God has different administrations and we see that in first Corinthians 12 when he talks about when Paul talks about the gifts so here's a result of word of the practical need to be organized the Word of God increased and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly so this is a phenomenal Satan is attacking and attacking and the more he attacks the more the church grows the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church and the church is the answer to this horror this nightmare of the future of a boot stamping on a human face forever it is going to happen but not in fact it's happening now but it's not forever it's not forever Christ is returning he's going to put a stop to it and the church is going to come with him and be raised with him and the Word of God increased in the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith so now these priests who were kind of part of the leadership they're beginning to see very clearly that the leadership is corrupt the political correctness is wrong and and and these men are

preaching the truth and they get to hear the truth because because people did not succumb to political correctness they preach the Word of God boldly because they abided in Christ they were praying they were they were studying and they were filled with the holy spirit and they preached the truth boldly and they remained that they kept the church fied and as a result the church could continue to do its work and even the priests who heard the gospel they became obedient to the faith and stephen full of faith and power so here's a deacon that it's full of faith in power and I think we do a disservice to our deacons I think many if you look at many church organizations the diaconate is a stepping stone you feel like if you're a really good Deacon will make you a minister or you're still a deacon it's been 10 years and you're still deacon own something must be wrong but that is such a horrible approach that the church is not a hierarchical organization it's a body and there are really only two ordained offices in the body elders and deacons and and we have different functions but we're all brethren we have different functions and here's a very powerful Deacon who with the laying on of hands he he we see has the Holy Spirit and he has the gifts of the Spirit and and one of the gifts his faith and so here with faith and with boldness he also has these these these ability ability to do miracles he did great wonders and miracles among the people oh we have to make him a minister no he's a deacon but he's doing the D serving as a deacon very very well solving this critical problem a problem of life and death that could have fractured the church and he satisfied

the criteria to solve that problem but at the same time he's gifted in other ways and were able to use him the church is able to use him in other ways so then there arose so as a result of what these this great work that Stephens doing there arose certain of the synagogue which is called the synagogue of the libertine so these are probably the freemen in Jerusalem at the time in in the Roman Empire and switzer sirenians and Alexandrians and of them of Cilicia and of Asia and they were disputing with Stephen and so sometimes when we hear about disputing or debating again you know many Christians are like oh we should never do we should sort of keep our nose clean and stay away from any kind of controversy well Stephen this is very gifted deacon he was disputing with them and here we look at the word in the Greek Suzette the tail to sue the tail it means to investigate jointly that's the idea of debate let's let's jointly investigate this you say your side I'll say my side we're going to explore and get to the truth of the matter to discuss to controvert the this controversy to Cabot to dispute to inquire to question with with reason together that's what he was doing and you'll see later that's what Paul is doing that's what Paul does and so Luke is setting up Stephen as the model of part of Christ's ministry to show that Paul is going to even though Paul is against him initially he's going to be doing these very same things so they were disputing with Stephen and noticed this they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke so these are the learning man these are the men they're coming to put an end to

this and they want to show how much knowledge they have of the scriptures and somehow this man Stephen with with the gift of the Holy Spirit when he starts disputing with them and they say well he says yes but the scripture also says but have you not read but then why does it say this if you turn to Psalms and let's look and so he does the very thing that Christ it and so as a result they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke now was he prepared for the study did he sit down excited okay if they say this I'll say this look at what Luke writes in the his first volume when he says then said he unto them Christ speaking to the disciples nation shall rise against nation and Kingdom against Kingdom so it's going to be an environment of hostility and rage and triumph the very things that

George Orwell was speaking about and great earthquakes shall be in diverse places and famines and pestilences and fearful sights it's going to be horrible we're going to see things that are just what we're seeing is stomach-turning and great signs shall there be from heaven but before all these they shall lay their hands on you and persecute you so that's what that's what we're seeing now with Stephen and you'll in the early church this is exactly what Christ said would happen that before these signs happen they're going to do this to the church they're going to persecute you they're going to deliver you up to the synagogue so that's exactly what's happening to Stephen now and into prisons we saw that with Peter then John being brought before kings and rulers from my name's sake and this this may yet be ahead of us and it shall turn to

you for a testimony you are called to be
my witnesses and this is your
opportunity when you're in front of them
this is your opportunity to fulfill my
command to be my witnesses settle it
therefore in your hearts not to meditate
before what you shall answer so if
you're just fill if you abide in Christ
you're in prayer you're in the word
you're full of the Holy Spirit you don't
have to wonder all of this will be in
you to come out at the right time as
inspired by the Holy Spirit for I will
give you a mouth so is it's the Father's
will that we bear much fruit and crisis
saying don't worry if you abide in me
and I abide in you I will give you a
mouth and wisdom which all your
adversaries shall not be able to gain
say nor resist in other words we are
going to be in disputes we are going to
be in debate we are going to be in
controversy because people are going to
be decrying Christ's name they're going
to be denigrating Christ's name they're
going to be minimizing his life they're
going to be refusing his death and
resurrection and we're going to dispute
this we're going to be saying no this is
false and you must be coming from a
false vine and we're going to stand up
for Christ and Christ is going to say
that we don't have to worry he's going
to give us a mouth and wisdom which our
adversary shall not be able to gain
or resist and that's what we see now
happening with Steven when it says here
in verse 10 of chapter six and they were
not able to resist the wisdom and the
spirit by which he spoke so what did
they do so because clearly what he's
saying is true which obviously they're
going to repent not so fast so they saw
burnt men are they they brought men

together they found men which said we have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God so instead of facing the truth and repenting they choose instead to lie together you know Peter said to Ananias and Sapphira how is it that you conspired together to lie about the Holy Spirit and that's just the way Satan works in the hearts of men and and what we're seeing all over the world now it's phenomenal in every corridor whether it's academia or religious or our entertainment or politics everyone seems to be conspiring together and agreeing with this new speaking political correctness and denigrating Christ how is this instead of listening to the truth and responding to it they subvert men and teach these men how to lie so they say you know we've heard Stephen this man full of faith in the Holy Spirit Oh doing miracles and wonders to bless the people we heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God and they stirred up the people and the elders and it's you know this one thingy if you study mankind if you study history you look at the world it is so easy to stir up people you know you look around and it's like you just have to do one little thing and people are stirred up black lives matter cartoon character you whatever it is it's so easy to stir up the people there's this spirit that's just in the world that that's easy to stir people up and again George Orwell talks about the thrill of victory of triumph and this sort of self-abasement so it's because of its self-abasement that they they're looking for a reason to be stirred up to believe in something to to have a feeling of triumph to relieve them of their feeling of

inadequacy only God only Christ can
relieve us of that hollowness that that
inadequacy that we all feel it did this
sort of a feeling of triumph that's
artificial feeling of triumph the
problem with it is it's temporary it's
it's like a drug and so you've got to
keep going out and keep going at it keep
going at it and unfortunately that's
what Satan does and destroys mankind
with it the very people who are stamping
on the face of man they get it in the
end that's how Satan works and they
stirred up the people and she was really
Satan stirring up the people we wrestle
not against flesh and blood and the
elders even the elders are in on this
and the scribes and they came upon him
and caught him and brought him to the
council and set up false witnesses which
said this man ceases not to speak
blasphemous words against this holy
place and the law for we have heard him
say that this Jesus of Nazareth Nazareth
shall destroy this place and shall
change the customs which Moses delivered
to us now obviously he didn't say this
but they're for Satan is a liar and the
father of lies and they do what their
father teaches them to do so that's a
sort of a red flag always look for lying
if you want to know where Satan is
working that Christ is true and the Holy
Spirit is a spirit of truth and all
Liars the scripture says will be cast
into the lake of fire and so here they
are able to convince these men to put
this false witness and break the
commandment of God and accuse Stephen of
breaking God's law and all that sat in
the council looking steadfastly on him
saw his face as it had been the face of
an angel so they could all see that
God's Spirit is so much in this man and

obviously they know that they're doing wrong and I think we have to have this confidence that no matter what people say against us deep inside they know that they're not attached to the True Vine they know that they're doing wrong they know that they're lying they know that they're false witnesses and we have to preach this gospel and as a result of this Paul eventually will be converted but right now and we'll see as next week God willing we're going to chapter 7 that he's against Steve but certainly he would remember this and maybe he was even haunted by this but as he went about his business in the back of his mind he's remembering Steven's face but here we're at the end of chapter 6 will stop here and then next week God willing we'll get into chapter 7 but again what we're seeing is this early church movement and how it is all about Pentecost were in the age of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit comes down and Jesus Christ is now able to orchestrate his will despite the the power of the god of this world but Christ said now is Satan judged and so the judgment is final these are all legal terms judgment the accusation against the gods people we see here that we must be witnesses that all legal language why to prove that they hated Christ without a cause that when all of this is said and done what do we see we see the Creator sacrificing himself out of love for mankind is to saved to ransom mankind from the devil and yet everyone hate I shouldn't say everyone but the majority of mankind seems to hate Christ and work against Christ and you know they chose a murderer / Christ they wanted to release the murderer not Christ and it's amazing today that

people are choosing murderers or a
murderer / Christ we must choose Christ
we must stand for Christ and we must
comfort one another as and work together
as the early church did and tell the
world that Jesus Christ certainly the
Word of God must go out despite the
technological setbacks thanks for your
patience god bless we'll see my cousin
forward to seeing you next week and
again I apologize for the technical
difficulties I'm not sure what happened
they will look into that but certainly
the Word of God must go out despite the
technological setbacks thanks for your
patience god bless we'll see you