



# Acts 6

Acts Chapter 6, The Church's  
Second Problem, Grecian Jews,  
Widows, Deacons, Synagogue of  
the Freedmen, blasphemy

# ACTS 6



**"The Holy Spirit in ACTSion"**

The  
Church's  
Second  
Recorded  
Problem

# Acts 6:1, The Church's Second Problem

- Grecian Jews and the Hebraic Jews
- Who are these?



# Acts 6:1, Who Are These Widows?

- Stephen Ger in his commentary "The Book Of Acts: Witnesses To The World" on page 93 says "Hellenistic Jews were Jewish immigrants to Israel. These were ethnic Jews who, having lived outside of Israel for decades or even generations, had not returned to live in Jerusalem. The Hellenists were to some extent, culturally distinct from native Judeans, for example, worshiping in separate Greek – speaking synagogues as opposed to synagogues they conducted their services in Hebrew...."

# Acts 6:1, Who Are These Widows?

- “...There was a particularly large number of Hellenistic widows due to the custom of many Jews of the Diaspora of returning to Jerusalem later in life so as to be buried in the holy city. There was a Jewish belief that in the last days, when the resurrection concurred the first to rise would be those buried in the soil of Jerusalem. Those bodies outside of Israel, would first have to burrow underground however many hundreds or even thousands of miles back to Israel to enjoy the resurrection. Needless to say, this immigration pattern would have left an inordinate number of widows to attend to. (This is the original custom, still practiced by Jews today, of being buried together with a packet of soil from Israel.)”

# Acts 6:2, The Ministry Of The Word

- Acts 6:2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.
- The Apostles immediately sprung into action.
- Acts 6:4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

# Acts 6:3, 4 Qualifications

- <sup>NAU</sup> Acts 6:3 "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.
- Men
- good reputation
- full of the Spirit (born again)
- Wisdom
- Dr. Ryrie adds "spiritual"

# Acts 6:3-4, Bible Knowledge Commentary

- 6:3-4. The apostles mentioned three qualifications for those who would be enlisted to serve: they must (a) be full of the Spirit and (b) be full of wisdom (cf. v. 10). In addition they were to (c) be known for these things, that is, the previous two qualifications were to be their reputations. All three were necessary for the handling of finances. (Faith, v. 5, is not another qualification, for belief is simply the means of being filled with the Holy Spirit.)



# 1 Tim 3:8-13, Deacons

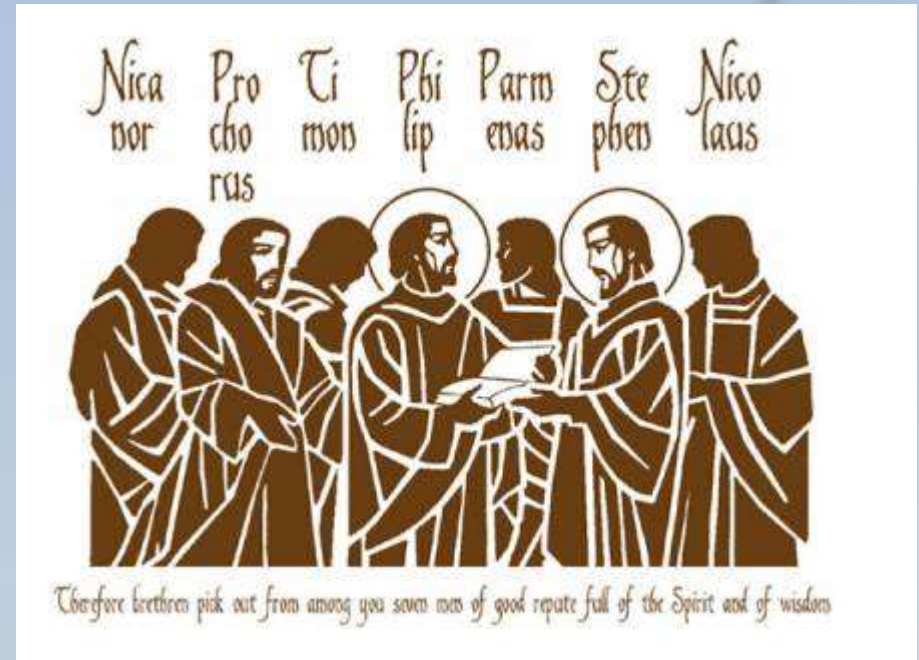
- 1 Tim 3:8-13 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.
- 11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.
- 12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

# Acts 6:3, Our Reputations

- <sup>NAU</sup> Acts 6:3 ...men of good reputation...
- Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be more desired than great wealth . . .
- Our reputations are extremely valuable. Since, as His children we reflect Him, God wants us to have, and keep, a good reputation. We, as His ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20) represent Him. And the only representation of Christianity some non-believers will ever see is us. In fact, one of the prerequisites to being a leader in the church is having a good reputation:
- It is required of church's servants, leaders, 1 Timothy 3:1.
- The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot. Proverbs 10:7

# Acts 6:5

- Acts 6:5 They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.



Acts 6:1...the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews... These are all Greek names implying they were Hellenists

# Acts 6:5, Stephen and Philip

- Acts 6:5 The introduction of these seven (cf. 21:8) prepares readers for the ministries of Stephen and Philip... Bible Knowledge Commentary
- Acts 21:8-9...we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, **one of the Seven**. 9 He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.
- I assume the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 are ethnic Jews of the diaspora “...and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism” was the only proselyte.

# Acts 6:7, Priests

- Acts 6:7...a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.
- Catholic or Greek or Russian Orthodox?
- Triumphal entry, tearing the veil, resurrection, great wind, healings, etc.



# Acts 6:9, Synagogue of the Freedmen

- <sup>NAU</sup> Acts 6:9 But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen.
- These probably were ethnic Jews returned from the 63BC enslavement by Pompey to Rome, now freed, repatriated to Jerusalem and having their own synagogue.

# Cyrene (Greek Κυρήνη)

- <sup>NAU</sup> Acts 6:9  
...Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen.



# ALEXANDRIA EGYPT, 2008

- Capitol of Egypt, second only to Rome in the Empire





# Acts 6:9, Cilicia



A Roman province in the S.E. corner of Asia Minor. Paul was born there, and claimed citizenship from there. It was important commercially, university, crossroads.

Acts 6:9, 15:23, 41, 21:39, 22:3, 23:34, 27:5, Gal. 1:21

# Acts 6:10, Wisdom And The Spirit

- <sup>NAU</sup> Acts 6:10 But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.
- What chance did they have?
- Fear not when defending the faith.
- <sup>NAU</sup> 1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

# Acts 6:11, They Secretly Persuaded

- Acts 6:11 Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."
- They got them to lie!
- Is it ever right to lie?

Rev 21:8 ...and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."



# Acts 6:11, Words Of Blasphemy

- Acts 6:11 ...words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."
- A capital offense.
- He will die for blasphemy.

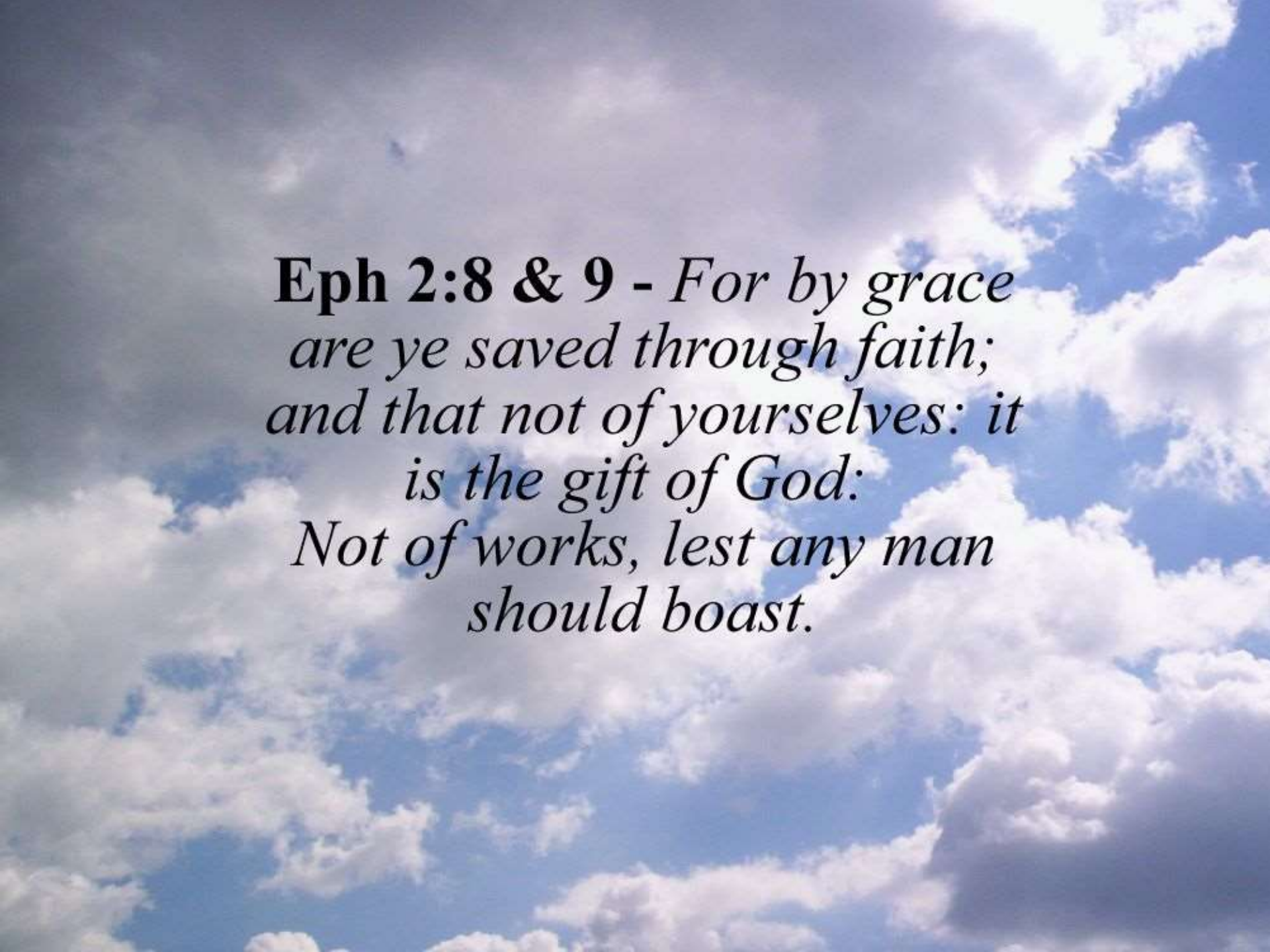


# Acts 6:12, Before The Council

- <sup>NAU</sup> Acts 6:12 And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him before the Council.
- This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 times the early Christians are hauled in before the Council.

# Acts 6:15, All The Council Stared

- <sup>NAU</sup> Acts 6:15 And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel.
- The whole Council were eyewitnesses.
- “his face like the face of an angel” no wonder they stared!
- I wonder what they saw?
- They will be accountable.



**Eph 2:8 & 9** - *For by grace  
are ye saved through faith;  
and that not of yourselves: it  
is the gift of God:  
Not of works, lest any man  
should boast.*

*In all that we do, we should  
totally give HIM thanks and our  
blessings will continue to  
multiply.*

**THE BEGINNING**

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**MAN**

**GOD**

**The  
End**



## Acts 6:9, 23:9, Argue

- Job 13:3 "But I would speak to the Almighty, And I desire to argue with God.
- 1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of boastful pride of life



*"With a real live woman right here, why would you turn to the Internet for an argument?"*