

<p>OASIS Groups (BUT not OASIS Go) this Friday 8th November Film night See Amy or Claudia for more info</p>	<p>Tearfund Big Quiz Night, Saturday November 16th at 7pm. Drinks and snacks provided. A prize for the winning team. Make up a team with friends and family (4-6 people). Come along, have some fun and raise funds for Tearfund.</p>
<p>Food for Thought This Thurs Nov 7th. Guest Speaker is Barbara Warwick. Starts at 2.30pm.</p>	<p>Men's Prayer Group- Prayer meeting for men every Tuesday morning at 7am for 45 minutes in the prayer room.</p>
<p>If you are not receiving emails from Emmanuel and wish to, please email the office with permission and we can add you to our mailing list!</p>	<p>A group of people meet for Prayer on a Mon morning 9-9.30am in the church. You are most welcome to join them or pass on prayer requests to Angie Godfrey or Jeff Mount</p> <p>Food Bank-Needs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit Squash • Sweets • Savoury Snacks • Tinned Potatoes • Anti-perspirant • Sanitary Towels • Shampoo • Wash Up Liquid • Cat Food • Dog Food • Coffee • Long Life Milk

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
Main Door Jayne Gray
Inner Door Dennis Bennett & Sara Short
Easy Worship Doreen Fraser
Teas & Coffees Nigel & Kate Bird

Sunday 3rd November 2019

10.30am **Coming together to praise, learn and encourage.**
 A warm welcome to you all. We would love to get to know each other better, so please introduce yourself.

11am Children and youth groups leave
 Nippers: Pre-school 2+
 Buzz: Reception, school years 1-5
 Salt: School years 6-11

7pm **Prayer & Praise** All are welcome

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<p>NEXT SUNDAY 10th November Pizza and Praise evening at church for the youth. Starts 6pm</p>	<p>WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A HOUSEGROUP? Email housegroups@emmanuelbaptist.co.uk and one of our Housegroup co-ordinators will put you in touch with a group.</p>	<p>WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY FOR YOU? Please come and ask the service leader and they will find one of our prayer team to pray with you.</p>
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Sermon Outline Notes: Acts 6:8–8:3 Something worth dying for!

1) Introduction

'I do not believe we can be sure we have something worth living for unless we are also ready to die for it.' Here in this chapter in Acts we have the story of the first Christian martyr—Stephen.

2) Stephen

- A man full of faith and the Holy Spirit
- A man through whom God did great works and miraculous signs.
- A man full of grace—charming and attractive personality.
- A man whose potential was recognised by others in the church.
- A man who was a Hellenistic Jew, who was probably raised not in Jerusalem but in a much more cosmopolitan Greek environment.

3) The Opposition

- Unable to defeat Stephen by argument the Jews of the Synagogue of Freed Men resorted to intrigue and conspiring (6:11) and to fermenting hostility amongst the general public and authorities against Stephen.
- Stephen is the victim of a shameful frame-up. The penalty he suffered was almost certainly illegal.

4) Why did it happen?

- a) The silent sympathisers (5:12-13)
 - The infant church was a popular and honoured movement but the majority of the 'general public' were not willing to express their support for it openly because they were scared.
- b) The agnostic fence sitter!
 - I said in a previous sermon that I was not an admirer of Gamaliel. I think he made three mistakes—
 - he made a fallacious comparison
 - he based his statements on a fallacious principle,

he came to a fallacious conclusion

- Gamaliel also 'left the field wide open' to others like the Synagogue of the Freed Men who did not share his distaste for violence, who had less confidence in divine providence and who did not display his leaning towards toleration.

Conclusion

The Kingdom of God is not advanced by the kinds of means these fanatics were trying to use. In the paradoxical economy of God the way God's purpose is advanced is not by killing but by dying, not by executions but by martyrdoms. It is in this story of the martyrdom of Stephen that Luke first mentions Saul of Tarsus. Saul witnessed a man who had something worth dying for! Saul also witnessed amazing forgiveness.

Points to Ponder

- 1) Share first reactions to the sermon. Was anything said with which you disagreed? Why?
- 2) 'The triumph of evil in this world requires nothing more than good men do nothing' Edmund Burke
What impact does this statement make on you?
- 3) 'If we are not passionately committed to the vindication of truth then we must bear part of the blame when those who are passionately committed to its denial achieve their purpose'.
Would you agree with this statement?