



# HERE AM I SEND ME



## “The Persecution Begins”

### GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (June 23, 2013)

LIVE EVENT via YouVersion app: <http://bible.us/e/z8i>

Text: Acts 6:8-8:3

Introduction: We are continuing our series entitled “Here Am I, Send Me: The Acts of the Apostles.” Tonight we are going to consider the heavy persecution against the early church and their response to it. Specifically, we are going to look at Stephen’s death and about how we would deal with similar persecution. Before we do that, it might be good to consider some facts about the persecution of Christians through the first four centuries. Where were Christians martyred? How were they martyred? Let’s study together....

#### Discussion:

#### ***I. The Revelation of Persecution***

Matthew 5:1-12, II Timothy 3:12, Matthew 10:22, John 15:18-20

#### ***II. The Reality of Persecution***

Matthew 4:1-11, John 7:7

#### ***III. The Reason for Persecution***

I Peter 4:14-16, II Timothy 3:12, Titus 2:14, I Peter 2:9, Galatians 5:22-33

#### ***IV. The Result of Persecution***

Mark 4:16-17, Acts 6:13, Matthew 10:16-22, I Timothy 3:2, 10

#### ***V. The Response to Persecution***

Acts 5:41, James 1:2, Romans 8:17, Matthew 5:43-45, Luke 23:44,  
Acts 7:60, Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-36

Conclusion: The book of Acts may have had a beginning and an end, but the work of the Jesus in this world has not concluded. The work of the church is not over. Also, the persecution of the church is not over. Are you prepared for persecution? Satan is still trying to stop the work of the Lord, but the gates of Hades cannot prevail against it! Are you ready to say, “Here am I, send me!” Are you ready to be a living witness? Have you shared your story?