Ephesians

In our magnificent study of the wonderful Word of God, we come today to begin the book of Ephesians. 38 years ago, we spent months in this "Queen of Epistles." (Were you with us then?) Then on January 1 2006, we again turned our attention to this wonderful book, and <u>spent nearly 20</u> months there. (I am sure that all of you remember this study.)

Paul – the man we first see in Acts 7:58-60. At that time, his name was Saul, a cruel, mean, monster of a man; a Jew killing unmercifully those who believed Who the LJC was. Pentecost had occurred and many were being transformed. Always, when God works, Satan is bothered, disturbed and steps in to express his opinion. "And in those days, when the number of disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring....." Acts 6:1 A decision was then made that men, honest, Spirit filled and men of wisdom, be appointed for the task of "not leaving the Word to serve tables." (Acts 6:2) Their job is proclaimed in Acts 6:4 "We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Here we find Stephen, a man of "Grace, faith and power." (Acts 6:8) With "wonders and miracles" taking place. Now we read Acts 6:12-15. When truth cuts and convicts, people will either cry in humility or cry in anger. Here, Acts 7:54 reveals that they were pierced in heart, cried out in rebellion, gnashed the teeth at Stephen and planned to kill him.

LOOK – SEE NOW what happens. Acts 7:55-60; Acts 8:1-4 then Acts 9:1-22.

Ephesians, January 2018