

=MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 11

Stephen

POINT OF CONTACT: See how many of the deacons of our church the class can name.

- I. THE WORD STEPHEN MEANS A “WREATH” OR A “CROWN.” This means that he won a martyr’s crown.
- II. HE WAS, NO DOUBT, THE LEADER OF THE DEACONS. See Acts 6:5.
- III. BEING A DEACON, OF COURSE, HE MET THE QUALIFICATIONS SET DOWN IN THE BIBLE FOR DEACONS.
 1. He was a serious-minded man. Notice I Timothy 3:8.
 2. He was not a gossip, nor was he critical. I Timothy 3:8, “...not doubletongued...”
 3. He was a temperate person. I Timothy 3:8, “...not given to much wine...”
 4. He was aboveboard in financial matters. I Timothy 3:8, “...not greedy of filthy lucre.”
 5. He was experienced in the Lord’s work. See I Timothy 3:10.
 6. He was a man of character. Study Acts 6:3a.
 7. He was full of the Holy Spirit. Review Acts 6:3b.
 8. He was a wise man. Consider Acts 6:3c.
 9. He was full of faith. Read Acts 6:5.
 10. He was full of power. See Acts 6:8.
 11. He was the husband of one wife. Notice I Timothy 3:12a.
 12. He was the head of his house and ruled his children and household well.
- IV. SINCE HE WAS A CHOSEN DEACON, HIS WIFE ALSO WAS A CERTAIN KIND OF LADY, BEING A RESPECTABLE PERSON, NOT CRITICAL; SHE WAS SOBER AND FAITHFUL. See I Timothy 3:11.
- V. STEPHEN, NO DOUBT, WAS A GREEK BY BIRTH. “Stephen” itself is a Greek name. He was the first one appointed to settle the complaints made by the Grecian widows.
- VI. HE WAS A PREACHING DEACON. Study Acts 7:2-53.
- VII. HE WAS THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR. Read Acts 7:60.
- VIII. HE WAS WELCOMED BY JESUS INTO HEAVEN. Notice Acts 7:55, 56.
- IX. HE HAD MUCH TO DO WITH PAUL’S CONVERSION. See Acts 7:58.
- X. HIS DEATH WAS THE CAUSE OF THE SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL FROM JERUSALEM. Review Acts 8:1, 4.
- XI. HE WAS THE CAUSE OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH. Consider Acts 11:19.