

**The Bible Teaches
Christianity and
Persecution go
Hand in Hand**

The 
Babylon Bee

Fake News
You Can Trust

**Christians Suffer Persecution of Having
Visitors Park in Their Usual Space (on Easter)**



Which of these, **if outlawed**, would impact your life the most?

Movies, TV, & Video Games

All Sports

Social Media

Exercising

Smart Devices

Singing and Music

Having Children

Visiting Family

Reading the Bible, Praying, and Sharing Jesus' Gospel

Acts 7:56-60 (ESV) ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But

they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had

said this, he fell asleep. *This is the first mention of Saul who later is ashamed by the fact that he participated in this action as Stephen even forgives those murdering him* *Once Jesus enters the speech, the people are unwilling to hear and kill the first of many Christian martyrs.*
In the midst of wrongful persecution, Stephen gets a standing ovation from Jesus!

Have you faced persecution? Is your response Christ-like?

Acts 8:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² And devout men

carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him.

³ As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and

Look at Stephen's example during intense persecution. Are you complacent even in the midst of American religious freedom?

*2 major developments:
Saul's prominence in
persecuting the church,
and the scattering begins
to produce positive actions*

*While Saul was
imprisoning and
condemning believers,
what happens to the
Gospel message?*

*Stephen's beloved
ministry to the Hellenistic
Jews was formerly
disdained by Saul... but
what did Saul end up
becoming*