***September 29, 2024***

**Unshakeable: Part 1**

**Acts 8:1-25**

**• This is God’s Word.**

**• It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction.**

**• It has God for its author,**

**• salvation for its end,**

**• and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.**

**• It is the supreme source of truth**

**• for what we believe**

**• and how we live.**

**The Great Wave of Persecution**

**Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison. Acts 8:1-3**

**The Powerful Preaching about Jesus**

**But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. Acts 8:4**

**What Would Happen if Wherever We Went,**

**We Told People About Jesus?**

**Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city. Acts 8:5-8**

**Often Times it is Our Ministry to People that**

**Opens Their Hearts to the Gospel!**

**Great Joy Can Come When Our Needs**

**are Met But Lasting Joy Only Comes**

**When We Receive the Gospel!**

**A man named Simon had been a sorcerer there for many years, amazing the people of Samaria and claiming to be someone great. Everyone, from the least to the greatest, often spoke of him as “the Great One—the Power of God.” They listened closely to him because for a long time he had astounded them with his magic. But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. Acts 8:9-12**

**One of the Greatest Weapons of the Enemy is Spiritual Deception.**

**When People Receive Jesus They will be Baptized, But not Everyone Who is Baptized has Truly Received Jesus.**

**The Church is Filled with Spiritual Pretenders.**

**Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God’s message, they sent Peter and John there. Acts 8:13-14**

* **Simon believed.**
* **Simon was baptized.**
* **Simon was involved.**

**Just Because I’ve “Checked Every Box” Doesn’t Mean I’ve Truly Been Saved.**

**“…God does not judge by external appearance…” Galatians 2:6 (NIV)**

**“…People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7**

**Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. “Let me have this power, too,” he exclaimed, “so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!” But Peter replied, “May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God’s gift can be bought! You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God. Acts 8:17-21**

**For I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin.” Acts 8:23**

**Simon Was a Pretender…A Hypocrite.**

**Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts, Acts 8:22**

**There is No Salvation Apart From Repentance!**