



## **Enormous Audience**

Acts 5-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

### **About *Enormous Church: How Church is Supposed to Be***

Two thousand years ago, a gathering of people in a Middle Eastern city began a movement that would circle the globe and leave its mark on individuals and cultures on every continent. This movement eventually became known as The Church. The church isn't a place; it's a movement. And ...it's still moving. Whether you consider yourself a church person or not, *Enormous Church*, seeks to reveal the story and meaning of the earliest gatherings of Christians.

### **Bottom Line**

The message of the church is a message for the world.

### **Introduction**

A Chinese Christian asks, "Why doesn't everybody in America go to church?" Have we lost our wonder? How is it we have lost our appreciation of how the church has shaped our culture and impacted the world?

The church is not an American icon. The church is a movement - a movement launched to touch the world.

At the core of the message is, "Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God." He died for our sins and rose from the dead.

This was the message that rocked the city of Jerusalem about two months after the resurrection as the followers of Jesus boldly flooded the streets.

Thousands of Jews embraced the gospel and suddenly the fragile balance of power with Rome was disturbed. Then, the apostles were arrested, beaten, and warned not to mention the name of Jesus again.

Acts 5:41-42: "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ."

### **Struggle**

New leaders surfaced. One of these new leaders was a man named Stephen. He became the first martyr. his death empowered all those who were opposed to this new movement.

## Truth

Read Acts 8-9.

For over 10 years, Paul prepared himself for his ministry to the Gentiles. He spent two weeks with Peter and James. In 47 AD, he left for his first journey abroad to take this message to the predominantly Greek/Roman world. For the next 10 years, he would travel and plant churches.



Paul's greatest contribution was the clarification of the gospel for us Gentiles.

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

## Conclusion

Paul gave his life so people like us could know. He gave his life so the world would know Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised, and He appeared.

## Next Steps

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
- Repent of being an undercover Christian.
- Now Go! And boldly tell the world, just as Paul did!