

**“ONE SOUL – THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE” -- ACTS 8:26-40**

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numbers pastor/teachers.

<p><b><u>SEEN IN THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH GOD GAVE TO PHILIP – Acts 8:26-33</u></b></p> <p><i>Act 8:26 Now <u>an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip</u>, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.</i></p> <p><i>Act 8:27 <u>So he arose and went</u>. And behold, a man of Ethiopia,</i></p> <p><i><u>a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury.</u></i></p>	<p><b><u>The story of the first known Gentile convert to Christianity – an Ethiopian eunuch; a proselyte to Judaism – Acts 8:27b</u></b></p> <p><b><u>This is seen in two ways in this passage:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>SEEN IN THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH GOD GAVE TO PHILIP – Acts 8:26-33</u></b></p> <p><i>v. 26 “<u>an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip</u>. -It reveals the concern of God for one individual” – the call came from the Lord</i></p> <p><i>v. 27a “<u>So he arose and went</u>. - It requires the obedience of believers like Philip – Acts 8:27a - It recognizes the influence that one person can have – Acts 8:27</i></p> <p><i>v. 27b “ <u>a eunuch of great authority under</u>” - His personal circumstances – “<u>eunuch</u>” – cf. - Matthew 19:12; Isaiah 56:4-8</i></p> <p><i>v. 27c “ <u>who had charge of all her treasury</u>,2C. His official position - Note: “<u>Candace</u>” – title like Pharaoh or Sultan or Caesar</i></p>	<p><b><u>“THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF ONE SOUL” - Acts 8:26-40</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Note the Divine revelation to Philip – the importance of one soul!</u></b></p> <p><b><u>and Philip’s obedience – do you know of a greater joy than to obey God?</u></b></p>
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*and had come to Jerusalem to worship,*

*Act 8:28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.*

*Act 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."*

*Act 8:30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"*

*Act 8:31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.*

*Act 8:32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: **"HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH.***

*Act 8:33 **IN HIS HUMILIATION HIS JUSTICE WAS TAKEN AWAY, AND WHO WILL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH."***

*v. 27b “Had come to Jerusalem to worship,” - His religious background - proselyte of the gate because he could not be circumcised. Records from 5th century B.C. of a Jewish colony in Ethiopia.*

*v. 28 “And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.”  
Act 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip B. It relies upon the leading of the Holy Spirit – Acts 8:28-29 There was a yearning for God, which is universal and in his search and quest for God, he came to Jerusalem. And there he got the Scriptures and he was heading back towards Ethiopia, still searching. I do believe that God does honor the heart that is searching after Him. And I believe that God will reveal Himself to that honest heart that is truly seeking Him.*

*vs. 30-31 “Do you understand what you are reading?” [31] And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. - It realizes the importance of God’s Word to an individual’s heart - – Acts 8:30-33*

**2 major views of verse 33;**

**1. Jesus’ rights of justice due Him, in the presence of His enemies were taken away. His rights of justice were taken away. WHO WILL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH** Who shall declare or set forth the wickedness of his contemporaries?

**2. Refers to “His justice” fully paid the price of our sins - all claims were taken away for all people - the payment of sins of fully completed. WHO WILL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH** How could He have any children because He died?—His descendants include all who will believe in Him, in what He has done.

Note the leading of the Holy Spirit

Note the eunuch is reading the problem text in Is. 53:33 – the common Jewish view is that this speaks of the nation and not of Jesus Christ the Messiah

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**SEEN IN THE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING – Acts 8:34-40**

*Act 8:34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"*

*Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached (evangelized) Jesus to him.*

*Act 8:36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"*

*Act 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."*

*And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*

*Act 8:38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still.*

*And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.*

*Act 8:39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away,*

*so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.*

*Act 8:40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.*

**THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE SOUL IS SEEN IN THE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING – Acts 8:34-40**

*v. 35 "Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus". - The response of Philip – cf. - 2 Corinthians 4:5 In your evangelism do you talk more of yourself or of Jesus Christ? How much time in your testimony (B.C vs. A.C.?)*

*v. 36 "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" - The request of the eunuch for baptism – Whatever gave him that idea?*

*v. 37 "If you believe with all your heart, you may." - The requirement involved*

**The RESULTS – Acts 8:38-40**

*v. 37b "he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." – Confession – Roman 1:16; 10:9*

*v. 38 "both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. - Obedience*

*v. 39 "caught Philip away", - this appears to be a miracle – Philip caught or snatched away!*

*v. 39 that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. - Joy! - Irenaeus said he became a missionary to the Ethiopians*

*Acts 8:37 "Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."*

This important verse is omitted in the Alexandrian texts based on the Code Vaticanus and the Codex Sinaiticus, all of which don't start until after 400AD.

An important question is what Bibles written before 400AD contain this verse?

It is present the majority Texts and many other early Bibles, including the Old Latin (2<sup>nd</sup> Cent). Latin Vulgate (5<sup>th</sup> Cent.). It was present in the Syriac, Vulgate, and Armenian versions.

This verse was quoted by early church fathers - Irenaeus, 150 years before any of the manuscripts; Cyprian (Treatise of Cyprian, 208-258AD) 90 years before; also Pontius of Carthage; Tertullian; Ambrose of Milan; Augustine of Hippo; Pacian of Barcelona;

**Note the results: (all of which point to the importance of one soul coming to faith) Verse 37b - the eunuch's confession!**

**Does this verse lend credence to immersion baptism?**

**OH HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME – THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE SOUL BEING SAVED!!!!**

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		<p><b><u>Questions:</u></b></p> <p>1 Do you really know the importance of the saving of one soul? How important is it to God?</p> <p>2. According to tradition (Irenaeus) what was the result in Ethiopia of the eunuch coming to Christ?</p> <p>3. From the text in Acts, what translation was the Eunuch reading from. Is there any significance of that translation to Philip and his background?</p> <p>4. Do you think it is likely that the eunuch was the first Gentile to receive Christ? <i>Cf. Acts 10:45</i></p> <p>5. Do you find it interesting that the eunuch is reading Isaiah 53?</p> <p>6. What is meant by verse 33? <i>“IN HIS HUMILIATION HIS JUSTICE WAS TAKEN AWAY, AND WHO WILL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH.”</i></p> <p>7. In verse 33, Who is the who that has declared “His generation”? Can evidence of that be seen in this passage?</p> <p>8. What was Philip’s method of evangelism in verse 35.</p> <p>9. What or whom do you think gave the eunuch the idea of baptism in verse 36? -- Putting off the old and putting on the new?</p> <p>10. Who can baptize – pastors only? Was Philip a pastor?</p> <p>11. How significant is the importance of the baptism as taught in the Bible?</p> <p>12. Do you believe verse 37 should be in the Bible?</p> <p>13. Is verse 37 a requirement of baptism? That you have to believe in Jesus Christ to be baptized? Is this verse important with respect to infant baptism?</p> <p>14. Is infant baptism taught in the Bible?</p>
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