

# Acts 6

## Lesson 14

### Time Frame of Chapter 6

- A reference back to Lesson 3 reveals that we have placed the conversion of Paul to approximately 34 AD.
- This means that two to three years have passed between the beginning of the church (Acts 2), and the events of Acts 6, which are near to the conversion of Saul of Tarsus (cf. Act 9)

### Seven Chosen to Serve (1-7)

- There arose a "complaint" against the Hebrews by the Hellenists (Greek speaking Jews)
- Question: Was the complaint legitimate? Was the complaint sinful? (cf. Philippians 2:14; 1 Peter 4:9)
- A special provision made for widows. A daily distribution of food (1). Hellenist widows had been neglected in this benevolent work.
- The apostles took the lead in resolving the dispute (2)
- Note: benevolent work is subservient to the important work of preaching (2-4)
- Seven men appointed to oversee work. (Qualifications: see verse 3)
- Seven chosen and hands laid on them (6).
- Resolution of the complaint led to peace, and the spread of the gospel (7)

### Stephen Accused of Blasphemy (8-15)

- A powerful evangelist (8). Favored by God, and effective in preaching to the people.
- A false accusation raised against Stephen by the Synagogue (now Pharisees central to persecution) (9-11)
- The people stirred up and Stephen arrested (12-14)
- False accusation: Blasphemy. Accused of speaking against the Law and Temple. (13-14)
- Stephen's face: as that of an angel (15)

Student Notes: