



President's Convocation: *The Gospel Marches On*

DR. JEFF IORG
AUGUST 30, 2018

Scripture Passage	Story	Source of the Opposition	Relationship of Opposition to Church	Punishment Inflicted	Results for the Gospel
3:1-4:35	Lame Man	Sanhedrin	External	Apostles imprisoned and warned not to preach	5,000 men converted, boldness, unity, sharing resources
4:36-5:16	Ananias and Sapphira	Church leaders	Internal	Death of two leaders	Prestige for apostles, conversion of women, healings, exorcisms, numerical growth
5:17-42	Jealousy	Sanhedrin	External	Apostles imprisoned, beaten, and warned not to preach	Increased preaching, constant witnessing
6:1-7	Widows	Church members	Internal	Disrupted fellowship	Numerical growth, priests converted
6:8-8:3	Stephen	Sanhedrin	External	Apostles killed	Christian Diaspora, led to Saul's conversion and worldwide missionary expansion

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We must address external opposition to the gospel with:

- Spiritual conviction – the gospel is true and sufficient.
- Spiritual resources – Spirit, Word, prayer.



We must minimize internal opposition to the gospel by:

- Developing healthy leaders and accountability processes.
- Developing healthy churches/ministry organizations to facilitate growth.



We must capitalize on opposition to the gospel as an opportunity to expand the gospel.

- American culture and political systems are becoming obstacles to the progress of the gospel. That can be good if:
 - American Christians stop whining about and depending on cultural and political systems to support them.
 - American Christians stop complaining and start sharing the gospel in the power of the Spirit and the context of prayer.



We must capitalize on opposition to the gospel as an opportunity to expand the gospel.

- The Gateway community must take the lead – less complaining about how hard things are becoming and more aggressive, intentional efforts to address external opposition and minimize internal opposition to the gospel.



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