Philip’s Sermons in Samaria
Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:
A. Acts 8:4-13
1. With preaching the gospel, the Lord’s church grew rapidly in Jerusalem
   a. 3000 souls were added after the first gospel sermon - Acts 2:41
   b. Following the 2nd sermon, the number grew to 5000 - Acts 4:4
2. It was message that expected the following response
   a. Faith in Jesus as both Lord and Christ - Acts 2:36
   b. Repentance from sin - Acts 2:38, 3:19
   c. Turning to God in baptism for the remission of sins
      1) Acts 2:38, 41, 3:19
3. Preaching this message was not without controversy
   a. Some took issue with the message of resurrection - Acts 4:1-3
   b. Persecution against the church in Jerusalem became progressively worse
      1) Peter and John were at first simply threatened - Acts 4:21
      2) Soon after all the apostles were beaten - Acts 5:40
      3) Then Steven was stoned to death - Acts 6:8 - 7:60
   c. Steven’s death led to widespread persecution, and the dispersal of many Christians from Jerusalem - Acts 8:1-3
4. But as Christians were scattered, so was the gospel
   a. The Christians went everywhere preaching the word - Acts 8:4
   b. Among those scattered was the evangelist Philip, whose preaching provides us with two examples of conversion:
      1) The Samaritans - Acts 8:4-25
      2) The Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:26-40
5. As per the Lord’s instructions - Acts 1:8

I. SERMONS IN SAMARIA
A. Philip preached Christ to them - Acts 8:5, 12
   1. Multitudes heeded the things he spoke - Acts 8:6-12
      a. Having heard and seen the miracles which he did, casting out unclean spirits, healing the paralyzed and lame
         1) Acts 6:6, 8:17-18
      b. Previously they had been impressed by a sorcerer named Simon
      c. They now believed Philip. Implications?
      d. There was a difference between what they saw Philip do and what Simon did.
      e. Even Simon knew the difference - Acts 8:18
   2. They were baptized, both men and women; even Simon the sorcerer was converted - Acts 8:13
B. The example of the Samaritans stands out for three reasons.
   1. This is the first preaching of the gospel to those not fully Jews
      a. Samaritans were half-breeds, disdained by most Jews - John 4:9
b. Message of the Messiah resonated with those not purebloods

2. First preaching of the gospel outside of Judea
   a. Apostles tended to remain in Judea and Jerusalem
   b. Samaria is not a city, but a region. Samaria was destroyed by John Hyrcanus, and Herod the Great built a capitol city there called Augusta
   c. Jesus had preached in that area before; Sychar and the woman at the well in John 5

3. The overwhelmingly positive response - Acts 8:12-13
   a. Men, women, and false teachers

II. PHILIP’S OUTLINE
   A. Preached Christ, the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ
   B. Preaching Christ - 1Cor. 2:2; Gal. 6:15; Phil. 3:8
      1. Preaching Christ results in obedience to the Gospel - Acts 8:35-36
      1. You can’t preach Christ without preaching about the church
      2. You cannot remain in sin and be in the kingdom of God - 1Cor. 6:9-10
   D. Preaching the name of Jesus Christ - the authority of Jesus, given to Him by God, associated with salvation - Matt. 28:18; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38
      1. Associated with growth and faithfulness - Col. 3:17
      2. Associated with soundness and fellowship - 2John 9-11

Conclusion:
   A. When one preaches Jesus:
      1. He preaches baptism for the remission of sins, entrance into the church, and faithfulness to the doctrine of Christ
      2. It stands apart from contemporary false faiths
      3. People become Christians regardless of location, background or gender