

# Acts 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

## Analysis

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That 'devout men' gave Stephen burial honors shows not all Jerusalem Jews opposed Christianity. Their 'great lamentation' demonstrated genuine grief over martyrdom of a godly man. Proper burial was important in Jewish culture, and these men risked association with the persecuted church. Reformed theology sees God's preserving grace even in persecution - maintaining a witness and testimony through these courageous men. Their devotion prefigures the many who would face opposition to honor Christ and His servants.

## Historical Context

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Jewish law required burial before sunset (Deuteronomy 21:23), even for executed criminals. That these men openly mourned Stephen despite the hostile climate shows remarkable courage, as association with executed blasphemers could bring persecution upon themselves.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to be 'devout' in times of persecution?
2. How do we honor fellow believers who suffer or die for their faith?
3. Why is public identification with persecuted Christians spiritually significant?

## Interlinear Text

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συνεκόμισαν	δὲ	τὸν	Στέφανον	ἄνδρες	εὐλαβεῖς
<b>carried</b>	<b>And</b>	G3588	<b>Stephen</b>	<b>men</b>	<b>devout</b>
G4792	G1161		G4736	G435	G2126
καὶ	ἐποίησαντὸ	κοπετὸν	μέγαν	ἐπ'	αὐτῷ
<b>to his burial and</b>	<b>made</b>	<b>lamentation</b>	<b>great</b>	<b>over</b>	<b>him</b>
G2532	G4160	G2870	G3173	G1909	G846

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