

# Sermon Study Guide – April 29th, 2018:

## *Today's Focus – "Confusion Rolled Away"*

### 1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ How long have you been a Christian? What beliefs still confuse you? Where does that confusion come from?
- ◆ How many Christian denominations do you guess there are? With so many different beliefs, how certain are you of yours?

### 2) Today's Message: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." <sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. <sup>31</sup> "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." <sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

### 3) What does God want you to know today?

*Throughout the sermon, consider...*

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

*Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...*

1. Describe the differences between Phillip and the Ethiopian, and why you wouldn't expect their beliefs to align.
2. Where's spiritual confusion come from? How do we know that?
3. What do individuals like Phillip, the Ethiopian, or Martin Luther teach us about how we can best answer such confusion?
4. How does answering difficult teachings with Jesus and his love help us to understand...
  - ⇒ *...infant baptism?*
  - ⇒ *...prayer fellowship?*
  - ⇒ *...whom we invite to Lord's Supper?*

#### 4) Taking it Home:

*Consider the following as you go about your week:*

- ◆ Take some time to think about the beliefs you have that produce confusion. Then, take some time to think about how fully and completely Jesus' love and mercy are yours. How does the latter help to resolve the former?
- ◆ Pick another Christian denomination to read-up on (i.e., to "google"). How much do you see a focus on Christ's pure love and grace? Do you find a correlation to the number of teachings which we would agree/disagree on?

*Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:*

**Monday:** review John 15:1-8, 2 Timothy 3:10-17    **Thursday:** Ps. 119:121-176

**Tuesday:** Psalm 119:1-64

**Friday:** Ephesians 6:10-20

**Wednesday:** Psalm 119:65-120

**Saturday:** *review* Acts 8:26-40