

Why Did They Do It?

Introduction: One of the most amazing qualities of early Christians was their evangelistic fervor. In about 70 years, those Christians took the good news concerning Jesus Christ throughout Palestine, to Syria, throughout Asia Minor, to Europe, to North Africa, with plans to go to Spain—and those are the areas of which we are aware! They commonly did this in pagan societies that were more immoral than today's world. They often did it as they faced personal sacrifice and persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

- I. **Look at what Acts says about the activities of some of these first Christians (8:1-5).**
 - A. Acts 8:25 says Peter and John “were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.”
 - B. Acts 8:40 says Philip “kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.”
 - C. Acts 9:32 says of Peter, “Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.”
 - D. Acts 11:19-21
 - E. The outreach work of early Christians was not limited to the activities of Paul and Barnabas. (1 Thess. 1:8)
- II. **Put yourself in the sandals of those Christians. What would you do?**
- III. **Why did they do it?**
 - A. They loved the Lord?
 - B. They were commanded to do that?
 - C. They needed to do it?
 - D. They discovered something in Jesus Christ that was so valuable, so cherished, so priceless that they *wanted* to share it even in the face of hardship.
 - E. Have you discovered the same thing?

Conclusion: The more you value your salvation, the more imperative it becomes that you share it. You do not seek to force it on someone--you share it. That is the key to evangelistic zeal and fervor. To share it, you must value it. Never forget because you have Christ you have something to share. May your life and who you are encourage people to want what you have found in Christ.