SERMON OUTLINE

Rejecting God's Grace Acts 6:8-7:53

- I. The Jewish leaders accused Stephen of opposing God (Acts 6:8-7:1).
 - A. When they couldn't defeat Stephen's wisdom, they falsely accused him of blasphemy (6:8-11).
 - <u>Stephen was accused</u> of opposing <u>God</u>, <u>HIs spokesman</u> (Moses), and <u>His Word</u> (the Law).
 - B. When brought to trial, the High Priest demanded that Stephen defend himself (6:12-7:1)
 - Stephen accused the Jews of rejecting God's grace like Israel did (Acts 7:2-53).
 - A. ABRAHAM: God promised His grace to Abraham (7:2-8).
 - B. JOSEPH: Israel's forefathers rejected Joseph, an instrument of God's grace (7:9-29).
 - C. MOSES: Israel's forefathers rejected Moses, an instrument of God's grace (7:30-43).
 - 1. They rejected Moses when he 1st tried to help (35)
 - 2. They rejected Moses after he rescued them (39).
 o Implied: They now rejected the "Prophet" Moses foretold (Acts 7:37; 3:22,23; Deut. 18:18)
 - D. THE TEMPLE: Israel was rejecting God by revering the temple instead of God Himself (7:44-50).
 - E. JESUS: Israel rejected God's grace by crucifying Jesus and rejecting the gospel (7:51-53)!
 - <u>They are guilty</u> of rejecting <u>God</u> (Holy Spirit), His <u>Righteous One</u> (Jesus), and His <u>Word</u> (the Law)

Application: Have you rejected or responded to God's grace through Jesus Christ?

Open Door Bible Church 11-25-12

II.