
❖SERMON NOTES❖

Sunday, August 17, 2014

“COURAGEOUS CHURCH”

(Acts 20:17-24)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity for a sabbatical leave this summer. I was most blessed by your gracious gift. As I have reflected on my time away and anticipated my return to this wonderful church family, I have prayerfully considered what message I would share on this day. The times are challenging. The sense of urgency is demanding. The call of God on our lives is compelling. We must be a people of courage.

1. Be courageous in your _____.

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (2 Corinthians 4:17, ESV).

2. Be courageous in your _____.

“Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name” (Acts 5:41, ESV).

3. Be courageous in your _____.

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20, ESV).

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(Acts 20:17-24)

1. Be courageous in your suffering.

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews” (Acts 20:18-19, ESV).

“Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one” (2 Corinthians 11:24, ESV).

“Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea...” (2 Corinthians 11:25-26, ESV).

“I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches” (2 Corinthians 11:27-28, NLT).

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (2 Corinthians 4:17, ESV).

2. Be courageous in your witness.

“I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:20-21, ESV).

“...Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...” (Acts 4:29, ESV).

“Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name” (Acts 5:41, ESV).

3. Be courageous in your decisions.

“And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me” (Acts 20:22-23, ESV).

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20, ESV).