

# Courageous Christianity

## Introduction:

- A. Joshua 1:1-9
  1. Joshua was chosen by God to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land.
  2. God commanded him to be strong and courageous.
  3. Joshua needed courage to remain faithful to the challenges before him
- B. Christians needs to be strong and courageous to remain faithful to the Lord today perhaps more than any other time in recent history.

## I. COURAGE FROM THE SCRIPTURES

- A. As Joshua was told to be courageous, so are Christians - Phil. 1:27-28
- B. As Joshua was told to do all of the law, so are Christians - James 2:10
- C. As Joshua was commanded not to turn to the right or the left, Christians are not to turn aside - Acts 20:22-24; 2John 9
- D. As Joshua was told he would prosper as he served God faithfully, so are Christians going to prosper - Rev. 22:14

## II. WHY IS COURAGE ESSENTIAL?

- A. God commands it - Joshua 1:9; Heb. 10:35-39
- B. God pledges His support to the courageous
  1. Joshua 1:9; Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5-6; Phil. 4:13
- C. God gives assurances of success to the courageous
  1. Joshua 1:8; Isa. 40:9-11; Rev. 2:10, 3:21

## III. WHEN IS COURAGE NEEDED?

- A. When in a minority, it is tempting to renounce your position.
- B. God's people always seem to be in the minority.
  1. Noah - Gen. 6:8, 7:1
  2. Elijah was outnumbered by Baal's prophets 450 to 1 - 1Kings 18:22
  3. The apostle Paul stood alone - 2Tim. 4:16-18
- C. Things are not much different for God's people today - Luke 13:23-27
- D. God expects His children to stand for right, even in a minority - 2Cor. 6:17-18
  1. Sometimes God's faithful had to stand up against civil government.
    - a. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Dan. 3:16-18
    - b. Daniel - Dan. 6:7-10
    - c. Peter and John - Acts 4:18-19
    - d. How can you know if you can pass the test? See if your courage gives out in lesser situations: Family, work, etc.
  2. When facing temptation
    - a. Joseph - Gen. 39:6-12
    - b. Satan walks about as a roaring lion - 1Peter 5:8; James 1:13-15
    - c. Christians are to resist the skilled Adversary - James 4:7
    - d. Courage comes from knowledge of God's care - 1Cor. 10:13

3. In warning sinners, it is not love that keeps silent when another is acting self-destructively, it is fear of confrontation
  - a. It is much easier to overlook and forget the sins of others, but that is not what is best for either of you
  - b. Nathan - 2Sam. 12:7
  - c. John the Baptist - Mark 6:18
  - d. Paul to Peter - Gal. 2:11
4. The consequences of acting courageously are not always pleasing.
  - a. Some will not repent; others may react badly
  - b. Yet, it brings spiritual contentment - Acts 20:26-27
5. When admitting wrong
  - a. Sometimes this takes more courage than anything else. The coward's way is to justify one's wrongs.
  - b. David - 2Sam. 12:13
  - c. Nothing short of the kind of courage David possessed will suffice for the Christian.

Conclusion:

- A. Many will often say preachers, "How courageous you are!" But they are usually preaching among friends.
  1. The truly courageous are those who go out into the world each day and place their faith before others.
  2. May each of us be courageous and strong and live each day for the Lord no matter what the circumstances or consequences.