**A COURAGEOUS CHURCH**

**1 Corinthians 16:13-14**

**INTRODUCTION**

In **1 Corinthians 16** we find Paul giving directive to God’s people based on the condition that they now find themselves in. Whether the condition is based on persecution or famine of some sort, we are not sure of, but we do know that the condition that existed at the time Paul gave specific directive and or encouragement. As we arrive at verse thirteen and fourteen, the brethren are advised to “Be on guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love” (**1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NIV**).

**Courage** – Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

**BODY OF LESSON**

**I.** Courage is expected – God expects courageous Christians

 A. Watch / be on guard, stand fast in the faith / stand firm in the faith, quit ye

 like men / be men of courage, Be strong, do all with love (**1 Cor. 16:13-14**).

 B. Stand fast… striving together (**Philippians 1:27**).

C. God has not given us the spirit of fear (**2 Timothy 1:7**).

**II.** Courage is demonstrated – How can we demonstrate courage?

 A. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**).

 B. Faithfully follow Christ (**Matthew 10:22**).

 C. Suffer temptation (**1 Peter 1:5-6**).

**III.** Courage is rewarded – God will reward courage!

 A. Hold faith without wavering (**Hebrews 10:23**).

 B. Righteous receive life eternal (**Matthew 25:46**).

 C. A mansion awaits us (**John 14:1-6**).

**SCRIPTURE**

**1 Corinthians 16:13-14**

**13** Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. **14** Let all your things be done with charity.

**Philippians 1:27**

**27** Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

**2 Timothy 1:7**

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

**Matthew 6:33**

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Matthew 10:22**

22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

**2 Timothy 3:12**

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

**1 Peter 1:5-6**

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

**Hebrews 10:23**

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

**Matthew 25:46**

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

**John 14:1-6**

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.