

- Teaching is not entertaining — it is explaining God's truth
- Leadership is not being charismatic — it is guiding a group wisely
- Encouragement is not saying “Attaboy!” — it is exhorting others to godliness
- Word of knowledge is not receiving new revelation from God — it is observing biblical facts and making conclusions
- Word of wisdom is also not receiving new revelation — it is taking knowledge and making application

These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; — Zechariah 8:16

# The Boldness of the Apostle Paul

## Acts 14

Pastor Philip Bovenkamp

October 1, 2017

- Speaking boldly (*parrhēsia*) literally means “speaking everything”
- Speaking boldly (*parrhēsia*) in practice meant “freely speaking the truth”
- Boldness is a characteristic of the apostles in Acts (Acts 2:29; 4:13; 13:46; 19:8; 26:26)
- The New Testament concept of boldness is much broader than we think of it today

### Courage

- Paul and Barnabas had shown this same boldness in Antioch (Acts 13:46)
- This was in response to opposition from the Jews (Acts 13:45)
- They refused to change their approach despite persecution
  - In Iconium (Acts 14:1-3, 5-6)
  - In Lystra (Acts 14:7, 19-21)
  - In Derbe (Acts 13:21)

- 20 years later (near the end of his life) Paul still recounted *these* events when writing of suffering (2 Timothy 3:11)
- How was Paul able to be courageous in such circumstances?
  1. The joy of seeing sinners saved (Acts 14:1, 21, 27)
  2. The evidence of the Lord's power (Acts 14:3, 8-10, 19-20; 2 Timothy 3:11)
  3. The promise of eternal reward (2 Timothy 2:7-8; Matthew 5:11-12)

## Commitment

- Commitment — or faithfulness — is consistent, long-term devotion to serving God
- Paul showed his commitment when he went back to where he was persecuted (Acts 14:21)
- Paul had better (and reasonable) travel options if he desired to avoid persecution
- What mattered to Paul more than his own suffering (Acts 14:21-22):
  - strengthening the souls of the disciples
  - Encouraging them to continue in the faith
  - That through many tribulations we enter the kingdom of God

## Communication

- Paul asked the Ephesians to pray so that he might boldly proclaim the gospel (Ephesians 6:19)
- His specific request was not for courage or commitment but for words (Ephesians 6:19)
- Paul was concerned about explaining the mystery of the gospel (Ephesians 6:19)
- It wasn't that Paul didn't understand the mystery; he was beset with being able to explain it accurately and clearly (Ephesians 3:2-3)
- Many important aspects of Paul's ministry required the right words
  - Evangelism (Acts 14:1)
  - Correcting (Acts 14:18)
  - Strengthening (Acts 14:22)
  - Encouraging (Acts 14:22)
  - Warning (Acts 14:22)
- Speaking boldly is *not* about eloquent language or polished delivery (1 Corinthians 2:1, 3)
- Speaking boldly is speaking the appropriate message for the circumstances