

# **KEEPING COURAGE**

## **Part 1 - Introduction**

**TEXT: (2 Corinthians 4:1 NKJV)**

### **A TIME TO HOLD ON TO YOUR COURAGE**

- A. Not lose heart
  - 1. To lose heart means to lose one's courage
- B. Courage: The state or quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face danger, fear, or changes in circumstances with self-possession, confidence, and resolution; bravery
  - 1. Indicates more of a choice than a feeling

### **JESUS TALKED ABOUT COURAGE**

- A. Be of good cheer - boldness, have courage (*Matthew 14:23-27 NKJV*)
  - 1. Jesus was not trying to scare them
  - 2. Not telling them to be happy - we often think of this with good cheer
  - 3. If Jesus did not want His disciples afraid in a storm (*Hebrews 13:5b-6 NKJV*)
- B. Jesus stands with Paul (*Acts 23:10-11 NKJV*)
  - 1. Paul's life was in danger
  - 2. This word from the Lord helped Paul through some extremely difficult times
  - 3. God's words to us can help us hold onto our courage in the middle of difficulty (*1 Corinthians 15:57 NKJV*)
- C. Some of Jesus' final instructions (*John 16:33 NKJV*)
  - 1. This verse may not be on many refrigerators
  - 2. Tribulation; to crush, press, compress, squeeze - sounds a lot like pressure
  - 3. Our objective then is to take courage in the middle of pressure

### **WHAT HELPS US KEEP OUR COURAGE?**

- A. Knowing God's mercy has been given to us (*2 Corinthians 4:1 NKJV*)
  - 1. Paul had a good understanding of God's mercy in his life
  - 2. He understood his life was an example of God's mercy (*1 Timothy 1:15-16 NKJV*)
  - 3. Peter understood God's mercy
  - 4. It was God's mercy that made us His own special people (*1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJV*)
- B. David had insight into God's mercy (*Psalms 33:18-22 NKJV*)
  - 1. David had more confidence that God would be merciful than man
  - 2. This is a prayer we can pray for ourselves