**Elder Berry Ross October 29, 2017**

**Paul, A Portrait Of Courage**

**Acts 21:1-36**

**Key truth:** Courage is the vital component between faith and works. Like faith, our courage must also be tested.

1. The testing of our courage begins our partnership with

 God.

 A. Not everyone will understand your test.

 B. Our courage will be tested in many areas of our walk.

 C. Receiving unfavorable news sometimes tests us.

2. If we are going to be used by God there is an expectation for

 us to grow in our courage.

 A. Our faith in God should help us to develop a deeper courage to

 serve.

 B. Our courage increases as we become more familiar how the Holy

 Spirit prepares us to serve.

 C. We cannot grow in our courage without the work of the Holy

 Spirit.

3. Mature courage leads us to stay the course no matter the

 consequences.

 A. Mature courage helps us to rise for the task.

 B. A sign of mature courage is when we place everything in the

 Lord’s hands.

 C. God desires to use those who are willing to grow in their courage.

**Taking it Beyond The Walls:** God is looking for us to mature in our courage. Pray and ask Him to strengthen you to reach courage maturity.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

How would you have responded to Agabus’ warning (vv. 10-11)? How did Paul’s companion’s respond (v. 12)?

How did Paul’s response demonstrate that he was convinced that Christ had risen from the dead (v. 13)? What does Paul’s response tell us about his purpose in life? What does it tell us about his faith?

How can Paul’s words in verse 13 encourage you or others when facing hardship for doing what God has called you to do?

Read Romans 8:26-28 and 1 Peter 1:6-9. How might these verses change our perspective on suffering? What might God be doing in our lives by allowing us to suffer?

How might your priorities need to change to prioritize living for God’s glory and Christ’s kingdom?

What temporal things most often distract you from eternal concerns? What is one step you might take this week to devote yourself to that which is eternal?

Are there any areas of your life where fear of consequences is keeping you from obedience? How might spiritual disciplines like prayer and Bible study help you overcome such fears?