

The Church That Advances
Acts 4:29-33

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1. As a church, we need to advance.
 2. It is good for us to take a look at ourselves, who we are, what we are doing, what is effective.
 - a. This morning we are discussing the word Boldness.
 - b. What does it mean to be bold?
 3. These times are some of the most challenging times since the first century church.
 - a. Because they were strong and bold, and because God was with them, the church grew and grew and finally conquered the empire.
 - b. Today, there is very much left to do.
- I. Consider the Situation in Ancient Israel. Numbers 33:3-4, “The Israelites set out from Rameses on the fifteenth day of the first month, the day after the Passover. They marched out boldly in full view of all the Egyptians, who were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had struck down among them; for the LORD had brought judgment on their gods.”
- A. God had brought his people out of Egypt. 1440 B.C.
 - B. God became angry with His people.
 - C. What a reversal of fortunes.
- II. A Similar Situation Occurred in the Early Church. Acts 4:13, “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”
- A. Now move forward 1430 years.
 - B. What happened next? The disciples could only pray.
 1. “We cannot but speak what we have seen and heard. We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 4:13, 29, 31
 - C. Throughout the book of Acts the church boldly advances the gospel.
- III. Today, We are at the Same Place of Opportunity for Boldness.
- A. We can be like the Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea, or the Christians in Jerusalem.
 - B. God’s people will never be blessed until we learn to proceed with boldness.