

Lesson Notes:

## **Boldness in the Lord**

In the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts we see three examples in which Paul and John boldly proclaimed the truth of Jesus to the high priests and church elders in the face of potential persecution and death. Their faith and love of our Lord Jesus was so strong that their own welfare was of no concern to them. Proclaiming the truth of Jesus was all that mattered in their lives. Stephen boldly proclaimed the love of Jesus Christ during his death and the untold numbers of Christians martyred during the reign of Nero and Diocletian resulted in the conversion of over 1 million Romans to Christianity. Below are examples of boldness for Jesus and a discussion on how we can live boldly for Jesus Christ.

## **Scriptural Principles**

- 1) **In the time of Nero and Diocletian the church underwent terrible persecutions. It is estimated that though the boldness of the Christians that over 1 million Romans became Christian.** – We are told in **Acts 8: 1-4** that many were scattered abroad and went forth preaching the word.
- 2) **Stephen was holy and bold in his love and service to the Lord.** – In **Acts 6: 4-9** Stephen is described as a very holy servant of God. During his death in **Acts 7: 57-60** Stephen showed the same compassion for his assailants as Jesus did for those that crucified him.

## **So How do we acquire Boldness in the Lord**

- 3) **By Answering God's Call to Salvation** – Paul tells us in **Romans 10: 12 – 13** that the Lord will answer our call for salvation regardless whether we are Jew or Gentile.
- 4) **By Growing strong in the Lord.** – Paul tells us this is accomplished through Bible Study and worship in **Colossians 3:16**.
- 5) **By Building a strong relationship with God through Prayer.** - We see in **Mark 1:35** that Jesus often spent time with his father in Heaven through prayer.
- 6) **By Recognizing that living a life pleasing to God and boldly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ is our reasonable service.** - Paul tells us this in **Romans 12:1**.