

Facing the Future with Courage
Pastor Dennis Rouse
May 23, 2021

“Great occasions do not make heroes or cowards. They simply unveil them to the eyes of men. Silently and imperceptibly, as we wake or sleep, we grow strong or grow weak and at the last, some crisis shows us what we have become.” — **B.F. Westcott**

Matthew 24:7 NKJV

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.”

Matthew 24:10 NKJV

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”

Matthew 24:11 NKJV

“Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.”

Matthew 24:12 NKJV

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

Matthew 24:13 NKJV

”But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

Matthew 24:14 NKJV

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Colossians 2:8 NIV

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

“Man is the measure of all things.” — **Protagoras, Greek philosopher**

Secular Humanism: holds humanity, rather than God, at the center of human existence

Goal of Secular Humanism: to rid society of anything that imposes a set of rules and boundaries imposed by God or religion

Daniel 7:25 NKJV

“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to CHANGE TIMES AND LAW.”

How to Face the Future with Courage:

Courage: to act in accordance with one’s beliefs in spite of criticism, persecution, or the possibility of failure

1. Courage to live above fear

2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Statistics (National Center for Health):

- CHILDREN ages 1-4: 20 times more likely to die from the flu than from COVID-19
- CHILDREN ages 5-14: 1 in 200,000 die from the flu; 1 in 1.8 million die from COVID-19

Statistics by Age:

- Under 1 year: 3.9 in 1 million deaths
- Ages 1-4: 0.8 IN 1 million deaths
- Ages 5-14: 0.6 IN 1 million deaths

- Ages 15-24: 6 IN 1 million deaths
- Ages 25-34: 30.4 IN 1 million deaths
- Ages 35-44: 86.6 IN 1 million deaths

“Americans as a whole have a 1 in 1000 chance of dying from COVID-19 over the next six months.”— **Stanford School of Medicine**

Statistics by Race:

- Native American: 250 per 100,000
- Black: 175 per 100,000
- Latino: 150 per 100,000
- White: 147 per 100,000
- Asian: 100 per 100,000

“Courage is not the absence of fear. It is simply a greater presence of God that overcomes your fear!”

2. Courage to live by conviction and not just beliefs

Belief: something you will argue about

Conviction: something you will die for

“If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything.”

2 Timothy 4:1-4 NLT

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

3. Courage to live by faith and not in your comfort zone

Joshua 1:5-9 NIV

“No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS**, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. **BE STRONG AND VERY COURAGEOUS**. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? **BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS**. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”