

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What previous assurance did Paul have of arriving safely at Rome?
2. Why does God allow storms in the life of a Christian?
3. What made it possible for Paul to be calm in the storm?
4. How can we endure the storms of life by making our “ship” lighter?
5. How can we have confidence during crisis?

SUMMARY:

Paul had been told by the Lord of his future testimony in Rome. As the ship taking him on his way encountered severe storms, Paul continued to trust in God though it appeared there was no hope of surviving the storm. His trust was rewarded by God sending an angel to encourage him and to reaffirm his safety, according to the promise of God. Though the ship was lost, all men aboard were saved.

As we are called upon to face storms and crises of life, may we face them with the confidence displayed by Paul.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

March 5, 2006

First Quarter

CONFIDENCE DURING CRISIS

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 27:1-44*

LESSON SETTING: Aboard ship bound for Italy (Rome)

TIME: Approximately 60 A.D.

I. A VOYAGE BEGUN. Acts 27:1-13

- A. According to God’s Plan. (vs. 1) Acts 23:11
- B. Progress Difficult. (vs. 7)
- C. Advice Unheeded. (vs. 10-11)

II. A GREAT TEMPEST. Acts 27:14-20

- A. Storm Encountered. (vs. 14) Mark 4:37
- B. Ship Lightened. (vs. 18-19) Hebrews 12:1
- C. Without Hope. (vs. 20) Ephesians 2:11-12

III. A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE. Acts 27:21-44

- A. Confessing God. (vs. 23) Luke 12:8; Acts 24:14
- B. Safety Promised. (vs. 24) Psalm 34:7
- C. Confidence in God. (vs. 25) 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 14; Hebrews 11:25
- D. Safety Reached. (vs. 44) Revelation 7:9

GOLDEN TEXT: *BE OF GOOD CHEER: FOR I BELIEVE GOD,
THAT IT SHALL BE EVEN AS IT WAS TOLD ME.* Acts 27:25

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Acts 28:1-31

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Acts 23:9-11; Romans 1:9-16;
Philippians 1:12-21

QUARTERLY THEME: Life and Writings of Paul

TOPIC: PAUL MINISTERS IN ROME

INTRODUCTION:

Paul had long desired to visit Rome but no opportunity came until, by law, he was forced to go. He had asked to be brought before Caesar when he was taken prisoner in Jerusalem. Therefore, he was sent to Rome as a prisoner.

He lived as a prisoner for two years in Rome where people came to him to hear the gospel. Possibly he could witness to more people in this manner than if he were free.

Paul could easily have become discouraged when he realized he must remain in prison. Surely his heart had burned within, with desire to bring the gospel to Rome. He certainly had not planned to stay at one place. But his chains did not alter his desire to preach. He must have been so convincing in his messages that people went to him to listen. Acts 28:31 says “. . . *no man forbidding him.*” He was a prisoner, therefore, he did not have to flee for his life as he often did when on his missionary journeys. God had a purpose in keeping Paul as a Roman prisoner.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Faith in God will bring us safely through the storms of life.

GOLDEN TEXT: *I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH; TO THE JEW FIRST, AND ALSO TO THE GREEK.*

Romans 1:16

Sometimes the question is asked: “What is the gospel of Christ?” Recently the thought was expressed that perhaps the power of the Gospel had been lost, because prayers for the recovering of health are sometimes seemingly unanswered when a loved one passes away or remains seriously ill.

Our Golden Text today clearly answers this thought. “The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.” Lest we feel that our faith is vain, we ought always qualify our prayer requests for temporal blessings as the leper did. “*Lord, if thou wilt.*” (Matthew 8:2)

However, God is committed to grant salvation to everyone, anywhere who truly believes, obeys and overcomes.

Though the Christian's gladness
Mingled is with pain,
Yet his eyes mid sadness,
Look to heaven's gain. Z.H. 149:6a

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 6–12

- M. *Paul's Ministry on Melita. Acts 28:1-10
- T. *Paul's Journey to Rome. Acts 28:11-16
- W. *Paul's Meeting with Jewish Leaders. Acts 28:17-22
- T. *Paul's Testimony to Roman Jews. Acts 28:23-31
- F. Paul Writes to Roman Believers. Romans 1:9-16
- S. A Letter Written From Rome. Philippians 1:12-17
- S. Paul's Desire to Preach Christ. Philippians 1:18-24