

Acts 28:11-16
The Encouragement of Christian Fellowship
November 8, 2009
Sermon Outline

Notes

I. Introduction

- A. Have you ever watched a fire burn?
- B. My California Trip

Key Idea

The path God has given each one of us is difficult but God has given us, like Paul, travel companions to encourage us to stay the course.

II. Final Journey to Rome (11-16)

- A. Careful Sailing from Port to Port (11-13)
- B. Paul Receives Christian Encouragement

Acts 28:13b-15

...we came to **Puteoli**.¹⁴ There we found *brothers* and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to (*set out for*) Rome.¹⁵ And *the brothers there*, when they heard about us, came as far as *the Forum of Appius* (40miles) and *Three Taverns* (30miles) to meet us. On seeing them, ***Paul thanked God and took courage.***

- 1. The source of Christian Fellowship
- 2. Paul's need for Christian Fellowship
 - a. The personal

Romans 1:11-12

¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—¹² that is, that ***we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith***, both yours and mine.

- b. The logistical

Acts 28:16, 30

And when we came into Rome, *Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him.*

³⁰ He lived there **two whole years** at his own expense, and *welcomed all who came to him...*

Acts 28:17

After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews...

III. Gospel Centered Thinking & Living

- A. We Need Heart Encouragement

Ephesians 6:21b-22 (Colossians 4:7-8)

Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything.²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may **encourage your hearts.**

Hebrews 10:19-27

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,* ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

B. Jesus is Our Source and Our Model

Philippians 2:1-(11)

So **if there is any encouragement in Christ**, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the *same mind*, having the *same love*, being *in full accord and of one mind*. ³ Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ...

C. Fellowship is Part of How We See Jesus

Colossians 2:1-5

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ² *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,* ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

D. Fellowship is Part of Our Witness

Romans 15:5-7

⁵ *May the God of endurance and encouragement* grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ *that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁷ Therefore **welcome one another** as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

E. Fellowship Killers

1. Pride
2. Fear of Man
3. Laziness/Selfishness