

- Imagine The Fellowship & The Joy:
 - Paul Would Have Experienced With Those Brothers & Sisters In Christ!
 - He Did Not Have The Opportunity To Worship The Lord At Church:
 - For Over Two Years!
- What A Blessing This Was For Paul!
 - And What A Gift This Was:
 - From The Lord!
- And - I Think We Can See From This That:

1. *In Times Of Desolation – There Can Still Be A Refreshment:*

- From The Lord:
 - And Through His People!
- Unfortunately - Fellowship With God’s People:
 - Is Something That Is All-Too-Easy:
 - For Us To Take For Granted!
 - Until - Those Opportunities Are Taken Away From Us!
 - **IE:** Can’t Tell You How Many Times I’ve Spoken With Members Who Were Shut-Ins - Whether At Home Or In A Nursing Home - Who Just Longed To Be Able To Attend Church - One Last Time! They Missed The Place! They Missed The People! They Missed The Praise! And - They Missed The Proclamation Of God’s Precious Word!
- Don’t Take For Granted:
 - The Opportunities You Now Have:
 - To Enjoy The Fellowship Of God’s People:
 - As You Worship The Lord Together!
 - What A Great Time They Must Have Had Together:
 - In The City Of Sidon!
 - But - Alas - It Was Time To Move On!
 - And So - Luke Records:
- Their Second Stop:
 - Which Was - According To 27:7 - The City Of Myra:
 - Which Was Already Past The Home Country:
 - Of Paul!
 - The City Of Myra:
 - Was - At That Time - A Major Port City:
 - And Was Where Paul And The Other Prisoners Were Transferred To Another Ship:
 - That Was Taking A More Direct Route To Rome!
 - And It Was On This Ship:
 - Where The Well-Known Adventure:
 - Of Paul - And 275 Other Passengers:
 - Begins!
 - **This Is What One Of Those:**
 - Ancient Cargo Ships:
 - Might Have Looked Like!
 - It Would Have Been Large Enough To Accommodate:
 - All The Sailors, Passengers, Tackle:
 - As Well As The Cargo!
 - And - According To 27:8 - Since The Winds:
 - Were Not As Swift As They Expected:
 - They Made The Island Of Crete:
- Their Third Stop:
 - **And A Harbor On The South Side Of Crete:**
 - Known As “The Fair Havens!”
 - And With A Name Like That:
 - It Had To Have Been As Beautiful A Port Then:
 - As It Is Now!
 - But This Is Where The “Easy” Part:
 - Of Paul’s Journey Ends!
 - Because - As Luke Tells Us In:

- 27:9-17 - "Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast [Likely, The Day Of Atonement, Which Usually Falls Somewhere In Between Mid-September & Mid-October] was now already past, Paul admonished them, / 10 And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. / 11 Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. / 12 And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west. / 13 And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete. / 14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. / 15 And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive. / 16 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat: / 17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven!"

- The Veteran Captain & Sailors Of The Ship:

- Thought It Best To Try For Another Harbor:

- On The South Of Crete!

- For One Reason - The City Of Phoenix / Phenice - Was A Major City In That Day - And The Sailors Would Have Plenty Of Entertainment There Through The Winter!

- **But - As They Attempted To Round:**

- The Cape Of Matala - To Go The 34 Miles:

- To The Harbor - Unexpectedly:

- 27:14 - "A Tempestuous Wind" Arose "Called Euroclydon!"

- "Meteorological evidence reveals that a sudden change from a mild southerly wind to a violent northeasterly wind often occurs in late fall in the eastern Mediterranean!" (Jefferson White)

- And The Term "Euroclydon" - Which Is A Combination Of Latin & Greek Words - Can Be Translated - A "North-Easter" - Or - A "Nor-Easter!" Familiar To Those Who Live In New York & New England!

- But - Just Before All Of This:

- 27:10 - The Apostle Paul - "Said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives!"

- And We Can Glean From This That:

2. ***In Times Of Difficulty – There Can Still Be A Reminder:***

- About What All Of God's People:

- Will Face In This World!

- Certainly - The Apostle Paul:

- Was Given The Gift Of Prophecy:

- And Was Speaking Words Given To Him:

- By The Holy Spirit!

- But - For Us - There Really Is No Need Of Prophecy:

- To Know & Recognize:

- That We Will Face:

- Trouble & Trials:

- And Even Temptations:

- In This Life!

- In Fact - This Kind Of Life:

- Has Already Been Prophesied To Us!

- In 2 Timothy 3:1 Paul Tells Us That:

- "In the last days perilous times shall come!"

- And - In 2 Timothy 3:12 - Paul Tells Us That:

- "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution!"

- So - When Trials & Difficulties Do Come:

- We Must Remember That:

- They Do Not Take The Lord By Surprise!

- But - We Can Be Confident That The Lord Himself Is Still In Control!

- And Is Still Directing Our Paths!

- But - As Paul's Journey Becomes More Difficult:

- And The Weather Becomes More Dark:

- Luke Continues In:

- 27:18-26 - "And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship; / 19 And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship. / 20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. / 21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and [Says – The Biggest "I Told You So" In The History Of "I Told You So's! He] said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. / 22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. / 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, / 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. / 25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. / 26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island!"

- When Everything Was Dark & Bleak:

- And Nigh-Well Hopeless:

- Who Comes On The Scene Once Again?

- The Lord! 27:23 - The "Angel Of The Lord" Who Brings Tidings Of "Good Cheer" To Paul And All Who Are With Him!

- Somewhere In The Middle Of The Mediterranean Sea:

- God - Once Again - Encourages His Servant:

- By His Presence:

- And With His Promise!

- 27:24 - "Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee!"

- And We Can See From This That:

3. ***In Times Of Darkness – There Can Still Be A Refuge!***

- As We Sang Earlier Today:

- From Psalm 142:5:

- "I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living!"

- No Matter How Dark:

- This Old World Seems To Get:

- God Himself:

- Can Be & Will Be:

- Your Perpetual Refuge!

- If - You Can Say With Paul - In 27:23:

- "God – Whose I Am & Whom I Serve!"

- The Ship May Have Been Caught:

- In The Clutches Of The Storm!

- But The Storm Itself:

- Was In The Hands Of The Lord!

- And This Is Still True:

- For The Dark Storms:

- That Will Swirl Around You Today!

- Remember That - "When Shadows Fall & The Night Covers All & There Are Things That Your Eyes Cannot See!" You Can Still Sing - "I'll Never Fear, For The Savior Is Near! My Lord Abides With Me!"

- And How Did Paul Respond:

- To The Lord's Presence:

- And The Lord's Renewed Promise:

- To Him?

- 27:25 - "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me!"

- Paul Believed God!

- And So Can You!

- God Is Trustworthy!

- You & I - Like Paul:

- Can Be - "Fully Persuaded That, What [God Has] Promised, He [Is] Able Also To Perform!" (Romans 4:21)

- And Even Though:

- The Storm Did Not Yet Subside:

- Paul's Faith In The Lord:
 - Helped Carry Him Through The Rest Of The Ordeal!
 - Which Luke Continues To Describe In:

- 27:27-37 - "But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country; / 28 And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms. / 29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. / 30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, / 31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. / 32 Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off. / 33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. / 34 Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. / 35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. / 36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat. / 37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls!"

- The Faith Paul Had:
 - Was Contagious!
 - Even The Roman Centurion Caught A Little Bit Of It!
- It Was Clear That There Was Something Different About Paul!
 - And - There Was Something Different About Paul's God!
 - And So - Julius Was Going To Trust Paul, As Paul Trusted God!
- And Then - We Read About Something Astounding!
 - A Thanksgiving Meal:
 - Right There In The Midst Of A Treacherous Storm!
 - And We Learn Once Again That:

4. ***In Times Of Despair – There Can Still Be A Rejoicing!***

- The Sailors Were In Despair!
 - That Is Why They Tried To Make A Break:
 - For The Shore On Their Own!
 - But - Armed With Faith:
 - In The Power & The Love Of God:
 - Paul Was In "Good Cheer" - And Led The Others To Feel The Same Way!
- No Matter What You Face:
 - You Still Have Much To "Give Thanks To God" About!
 - Is This How You Live Before The World?
 - Is There Something Different About You?
 - And - Can The World See Something Different About Your God:
 - Through You?
 - Instead Of Hoarding His Faith & His Food:
 - To Himself - With Joy, He Offered Them Both:
 - To All Who Where In The Ship!
 - And We Should Do The Same!
- But - All Those In The Ship:
 - Were Not In The Clear Yet!
 - They Still Had One Final Challenge To Go!
 - The Utter Destruction Of The Ship Off The Coasts Of Rocky Island – Way Off Their Course – Called Here "Melita" - Or - As We Know It Today - Malta!

- 27:38-44 - 28:1 - "And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea. / 39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship. / 40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore. / 41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves. / 42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. / 43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast

themselves first into the sea, and get to land: / 44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land. / 1 And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita!”

- And So - When They Were Safe On The Beach Of Melita:
- We See That:

5. *In Times Of Danger – There Can Still Be A Rescue!*

- Paul Knew There Was Hope:
 - In That Ship - Because:
 - The Lord Was In That Ship!
 - And This Is True:
 - No Matter What Danger You May Experience In Your Life & In This World!

Conclusion:

1. There Are Many Lessons We Can Learn:
 - With Paul In This Storm:
 - Because - As Robert Hawker Once Wrote:
 - “There Is Nothing More Striking To Represent The Life Of God’s People In Their Passage Through This World, Than That Of The Storms And Tempests Of The Deep!”
2. But - What Can The Lord Do:
 - With Those Storms:
 - And With That Tempest?
 - Psalm 107:29-30 - “He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. / Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven!”
 - Robert Hawker Continues:
 - “Such Is The Voyage Of Life To The Saints Of God! Storms And Tempests Everywhere Abound! But Christ Is An Hiding Place From The Wind, And A Covert From The Tempest!”
3. And So - In The Savior:
 - In Jesus Christ Alone:
 - You Can Find:
 - Refreshment:
 - In Times Of Desolation!
 - Remembrance:
 - In Times Of Difficulty!
 - Refuge:
 - In Times Of Darkness!
 - Rejoicing:
 - In Times Of Despair!
 - And Even Rescue:
 - In Times Of Danger!
4. Just Believe - As Paul Did:
 - In The Person:
 - The Presence:
 - And The Promises:
 - Of The Lord!
 - As David Puts It:
 - In Psalm 37:5 - “Commit Thy Way!”
 - As The Sailors Committed The Ship To The Ways Of The Sea!
 - “Commit Thy Way Unto The Lord! Trust Also In Him! And He Shall Bring It To Pass!”

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