

- But - Instead Of Taking Advantage:
 - Of The Misfortune Of Those Castaways:
 - As You Would Think “Barbarians” Might!
 - They Showed Them - 28:2:
 - “No Little Kindness!”
4. Now - Just Before Our Prayer Time:
- We Sang That Old Hymn Of John Newton’s:
 - “Amazing Grace!”
 - In The Third Stanza - We Sang These Words:
 - Through many dangers, toils and snares
 - I have already come:
 - 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
 - and grace will lead me home!
 - I Believe These Words:
 - Resonate With All Of God’s People:
 - As We Are - Day By Day:
 - On The March Toward Our Heavenly Home!
 - And - It Is God’s Grace:
 - That Will Lead You There! Lead You Home!
 - This Is What We Will See Tonight As Well:
 - I Believe - As We Travel Along With Paul:
 - On The Final Leg Of His Trip To Rome!
 - And - Even Though Rome Is Not His Final Destination:
 - His Journey Home:
 - Does Lead Him Through Rome!
 - And God’s Grace Is Evident:
 - All Along The Way!
5. And One Demonstration:
- Of God’s Grace - Leading Paul Home:
 - Was The “No Little Kindness” He & The Others:
 - Where Shown - By Those:
 - “Barbarous People!”
 - And - This Shows To Us That:
 - Even Though All Men Are Sinners:
 - It Does Not Mean That:
 - All Men Are As Sinful:
 - As They Can Be!
 - Unbelievers Can Be:
 - And Often Are:
 - **Kind!**
 - But - This Is Not Because:
 - As Some Might Say:
 - Everyone Has A “Spark Of Goodness” Or A “Spark Of Life” Within Them!
 - No - It Is Because Of God’s Own Work:
 - Of **Grace To** Men:
 - As Well As God’s Work:
 - Of **Restraint In** Men!
 - Any Good You Have:
 - Or - Any Good You See:
 - In This World - Is The Result:
 - Of God’s General Grace!
 - It Is A Goodness That Flows From God:
 - To His Creation! And:
 - This Is What Took Place There In Malta!
6. And So - We Can Learn From This That:
- The Grace That Leads Us Home:
 - Is Often:

1. ***The Grace Of Charity!***

- The Kindness Of Others:
 - Moved By God:
 - To Help His People Along The Way!
- And We Need To Learn To:
 - Recognize This Demonstration:
 - Of God's Grace!
 - And Give Thanks & Praise To The Lord!
 - As Matthew Henry Once Wrote:
 - "What benefits we receive by the hand of man must be acknowledged to come from the hand of God!"

7. But - When The Castaways Were On The Island:

- As We Find In 28:3-6:
 - Paul Was In Danger Once Again!
 - When - "And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. / 4 And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. / 5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. / 6 Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god!"
 - Now - This Event:
 - Is Clearly A Miraculous Demonstration:
 - Of God's Grace To Paul!
 - After All - The Residents Of The Island Would Have Known:
 - What Kind Of Snake Bit Paul:
 - And What The Effects Would Be!
 - But - God Was Still In Control:
 - And Was Going To Keep His Promise To Paul:
 - Back In 23:11 - That - "As thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome!"
 - So - Nothing Was Going To Get In God's Way & Plan For Paul!
 - Not Even A Deadly Snake!
 - And - Isn't This A Truth That We Have Seen:
 - Over & Over Again In Our:
 - ***Journey Through Acts?***
 - We've Seen:

2. ***The Grace Of Conservation:***

- And - God's Protection:
 - All Throughout Paul's Travels!
 - And - Once Again - This Is A Truth:
 - That All Of God's People:
 - Can Take Confidence In!
 - God Himself Will Preserve You:
 - Until His Plan & Purpose:
 - For You & Your Life Is Complete!
 - Now - This Doesn't Mean:
 - You Should Take Unnecessary Risks!
 - Even Paul Made His "Appeal Unto Caesar" To Avoid The Dangerous Trip To & Trial In Jerusalem:
 - Just A Few Years Before!
 - But - When You Are Striving To Be Faithful:
 - To The Lord:
 - In His Service:
 - You Can Be Confident That God's Grace Will See You Through:
 - Until The End!

- Just Keep Your Eyes On & Your Trust In The Lord!
- Now - One Question That Might Come To Mind:
 - Is That When - According To 28:6:
 - They “Said That He Was A God!”
 - Why Didn’t Paul Speak Up:
 - As He Had Done Before?
 - Why Didn’t He Say:
 - As He & Barnabas Had Back In The Superstitious City Of Lystra:
 - Acts 14:15 - “Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God!”
 - I Think The Answer Is:
 - Because Of The Language Barrier:
 - And Because, At The Time:
 - They Didn’t Act On Their Superstition:
 - Paul Didn’t Know What They Said Or Thought:
 - Until Later!
- But - It Was Through This Miracle:
 - And Even The Misinterpretation:
 - Of That Miracle By The Island People:
 - That Granted Paul - Once Again:

3. ***The Grace Of Circumstance!***

- That Is - God Gave Paul:
 - More Opportunities:
 - To Help The People:
 - Both Physically & Spiritually!
 - And We See This In:
 - 28:7-10 - “In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. / 8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. / 9 So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed: / 10 Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary!”
 - In Verse 7 & In Verse 10:
 - We Find A Couple Of Other Examples:
 - Of God’s Grace Of Charity:
 - And Kindness - Through The People Of Melita!
 - In Verse 7:
 - Publius Lodged Them For Three Days:
 - “Courteously!”
 - That Is - With Great Kindness & Generosity! Not Expecting Anything In Return!
 - And Then:
 - In Verse 10:
 - The People - After Three Months:
 - Of Getting To Know Paul & The Others Who Were With Him:
 - “Honored [Them] With Honors!”
 - Not Thinking Paul:
 - To Be A “God” Any Longer:
 - But To Be Their Friend!
- But - Paul Was Given The Opportunity:
 - To Return The Kindness:
 - Of These People:
 - By Healing Many Who:
 - Were Sick & Diseased!
 - But - Notice Back In 28:8:
 - What Paul Did Before He Laid His Hands On Someone!
 - He “Prayed!”
 - Paul Saw His Circumstances:

- There On That Island:
 - As Opportunities - To Point Others:
 - To The One True God:
 - Who Alone Had The Power To Heal!
- And This Is How You Need To See:
 - Your Circumstances Today:
 - Whatever They May Be!
 - They Are Given To You By God:
 - As Opportunities:
 - To Serve & Be A Witness For The Lord!
 - I'm Sure That Melita:
 - Was Not Where Paul Wanted To Be!
 - **It Was In The Middle Of The** Mediterranean Sea - And Quite Off The Normal Shipping Routes!
 - And - He Was Stuck There For Three Whole Months!
 - But - Melita:
 - Was Where God Wanted Paul To Be!
 - Because - There Were People:
 - To Be Reached On That Island As Well!
 - And So - Paul Made The Best:
 - Of His Circumstances:
 - And Redeemed Them For The Glory Of God & For The Good Of Those People!
- What Circumstances Do You Feel "Stuck" In Tonight?
 - Remember That God Is Still In Control:
 - Of Those Circumstances!
 - So - See Those Circumstances & Use Them As An Opportunity:
 - To "Do Good Unto All Men, Especially Unto Them Who Are Of The Household Of Faith!" (Galatians 6:10)
- But Then - After Those Three Months:
 - Paul & His Crew:
 - Were Back On The Move!
 - And - According To 28:11-13 - Made Several Stops Along The Way!
 - 28:11-13 - "And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux. / 12 And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days. / 13 And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli!"
- So - From Melita Or Malta:
 - They Sailed To The City Of Syracuse:
 - Which Had A Prominent Port:
 - On The Island Of Sicily!
 - **Here Is What:**
 - The Harbor Of Syracuse Looks Like Today!
 - And It Is Here They Stayed:
 - For Three Days - Likely Getting Other Supplies For The Rest Of Their Journey To Rome!
- Then - From Syracuse:
 - **They Sailed To The Town Of Rhegium:**
 - Which Was Near The Straits Of Messina:
 - Which Is The Narrow Channel Between Sicily & The Tip Of The Boot Of Italy!
 - An Interesting Phrase Is Used:
 - In 28:13 - That Describes Their Trip:
 - To Rhegium - We Are Told That They:
 - "Fetched A Compass!"
 - This Means That They:
 - "Made A Circuit" - Or - They:
 - "Came Around" To Rhegium!
 - So - Instead Of Making A Bee-Line:
 - From Syracuse To Rhegium:

- They Took It A Bit More Slowly:
 - And Safely! They Probably Hugged The Coastline:
 - Until They Were Close Enough To Head Over To Rhegium!
- It Seems - They Were Trying To Avoid The Open Water!
 - And Wouldn't You Do The Same Thing:
 - If You Went Through The Same Harrowing Storm:
 - They Went Through?
 - And Not Seeing Land For Over Two Weeks Straight!
 - This Time - They Were Going To:
 - Play Things Safe!
- But Then - From Rhegium:
 - **They Sailed To The Port Of Puteoli:**
 - Which Is Just To The West Of The Modern City Of Naples, Italy:
 - Which Still Sits Under The Shadow:
 - Of Mt. Vesuvius - Which Would Erupt In Less Than 20 Years Time:
 - And Destroy The City Of Pompeii - Which Was Just About 30 Miles Away! (79AD)
- And It Was In The City Of Puteoli:
 - That We Read In:
 - 28:14 - "Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome!"
 - After All Those Miles:
 - And - After All That Time:
 - And - After All That Danger:
 - Paul Is Given By God:
 - Another Grace!

4. ***The Grace Of Companionship!***

- Again - In 28:14 - Luke Records:
 - "We Found Brethren!"
 - What A Relief!
 - What A Joy!
 - What Fellowship They Must Have Had:
 - **There In Puteoli!**
- And They Stayed With Them:
 - For Seven Days!
 - The Interesting Thing Is:
 - It Doesn't Seem Like:
 - The Roman Soldiers Are In Any Kind Of Hurry!
 - They Are Willing To Wait:
 - Until Paul's Visit:
 - With His "Brethren" Is Done!
 - And After Those Seven Days:
 - Paul's Journey Continues:
 - 28:15-16 - "And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage. / 16 And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him!"
 - So - From Puteoli:
 - They Stop Sailing:
 - And Start Taking The Roads:
 - Into The City Of Rome Itself!
 - But The News Of Paul's Upcoming Arrival:
 - Reached Rome Before He Did:
 - And Other "Brethren" Came To Meet Him & Escort Him Into The City Itself!
 - And That Is When Luke Writes:
 - **28:16 - "We Came To Rome!"**
 - Finally!

- After All They Went Through!
- But - It Is Here Where We See Another Grace:
- Given To Paul & His Companions!
- And That Is:

5. *The Grace Of Comfort!*

- Because - As Paul & The Others:
 - Finally Met With Those Roman Christians:
 - They - 28:15 - “Thanked God, And Took Courage!”
 - And That Courage:
 - Would Help Him Continue To Serve The Lord:
 - During His Time In The City Of Rome!

Conclusion:

1. Isn't This Just Like:
 - The Lord We Love & Serve!
 - He Provides Fresh Out-Pourings:
 - Of His Grace:
 - Just When We Need It!
2. And Much Of The Grace:
 - He Gave To Paul:
 - He Gives To You & To Me:
 - As We Seek To Faithfully Serve Him:
 - In Our World Today!
 - He Pours Out:
 - The Grace Of:
 - Charity & Kindness - From Others!
 - The Grace Of:
 - Conservation & Protection!
 - The Grace Of:
 - Circumstance & Opportunity!
 - The Grace Of:
 - Companionship & Fellowship!
 - As Well As - The Grace Of:
 - Comfort & Encouragement!
3. What Grace Is God Showing You:
 - Tonight?
 - We Need To Not Only Learn:
 - To Recognize God's Work Of Grace!
 - We Also Need To Learn To:
 - Use God's Work Of Grace!
 - So That - The Lord Might:
 - Receive The Praise & The Glory:
 - That He Is Due!
4. Remember:
 - “Tis Grace Has Brought You Safe Thus Far!”
 - “And [His] Grace Will Lead You Home!”

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