

Things to remember when the lights go out Acts 27:12-25

1) Whose you Are – (V23) **“For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am...”**

In the midst of the darkness, I'm glad God will stand by us like that angel of God, you think Paul may have not even known where he was on that sea but God did. Friends we need be like Paul who was a light unto these men because he remember whose he was. Because of whose we are there is never anything we will ever face alone **Hebrews 13:5 “...for he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee”** Because of whose we are we have access to the throne **Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”** and not only can we pray but we are praying to one who understands and cares **Hebrews 4:15 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”** We may be in waters we have never crossed, in darkness without ability to see but of friends never forget whose you are.

2) Who you Serve – (V23) **“...and whom I serve”** Paul was not in a normal situation to minister to others but that did not stop him from ministering to others. Paul was not behind a pulpit nor standing in a synagogue but he was on a ship in darkness, a ship that was essentially driving itself, being tossed around, people were hungry, people were tired, people were fearful, but there was also someone on that boat who remember who he was serving and ministered to those 275 people on that ship. If we are going to be lights for Jesus in these dark times we must remember who we are serving, Paul could have had easily 100 excuses to just say well I mean Lord its dark, or this or that but instead there was someone still serving God, he was not looking for the ideal environment to minister but was willing to serve God right where he was. **Philippians 2:14 “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world”** Paul was telling the church at Philippi yall need to shine right where you are, during this dark time we are living in as a nation, the church needs to remember who we are serving.

3) What to Stand On – (V25) **“Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be as it was told to me”** I believe if we are going to be lights we must remember what to stand on. In the darkness, with an unstable vessel, perhaps even not knowing where this boat truly was on the water Paul had a stability and it was the word of God. May I say to you that in the darkest hours and the biggest storms the truth of the word of God is our stable ground. In the perilous times we live in today, marked with deception and deceit we can still be a light by staying with the word of God. This virus has caused what would be our normal to be thrown out the window, our schedules are mixed up our routines are tossed around, financially the stock markets is up and down there is a great instability all around us but in the midst of all this we have something we can stand on and that's Gods word. That doesn't mean we will be comfortable and it be normal but that doesn't mean we should live hopeless and be shaken back and forth. You know why Paul was a light because he still believed Gods word, that is what we need today, is the church just to believe God in spite of everything going on around us. In dark times we need to stay with the bible, part of the problem we have here in America today is we have gotten away from the bible, in its preaching, teaching reading and study but friends we must stay with the word of God. Paul believed Gods word that's what we need to be doing!