

Paul's Restorative Rebuke

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Text: Acts 27:1-44

- A. Recounted: Acts 27:1-2, 6-11, 18-20
 - 1. Paul as prisoner bound for Rome
 - 2. Paul counsels against the journey
 - Paul you ever navigated a ship?
 - You ever read the stars?
 - You know anything about the winds?
 - You know anything about the seas?
 - You know anything about the Seasons?
 - Paul, you don't know enough to stay out of prison.
 - Paul, you stick to the Bible and leave the sailing to us.
 - 3. Paul is vindicated
- B. Rebuke: Acts 27:21-26
 - 1. Paul - "You should have listened to me"
 - 2. Paul - "Now, take heed to my counsel"
 - 3. Paul's four anchors
- C. Result: Acts 27:27-36
 - 1. Paul is now the leader
 - 2. Paul instructs them to stay in the ship
 - 3. Paul tells them to eat
 - 4. Paul's influence moves the centurion to spare their lives
- D. They had to let go of the four earthly anchors before they could be saved by the four anchors Paul offered them from God.

I. 23 - THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- A. Even in the midst of that raging storm, Paul was not alone. The Lord proved His presence to give calm to Paul's heart.
- B. We can have the same confidence that Paul had; we can have faith in His promise to be with us always - Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5; Psalm 23:4
 - 1. In fact, we will never spend an instant of our life without God being aware of it.

II. 24-25 - THE PROMISES OF GOD

- A. As Paul weathered the storm, the Lord came to him with a promise. He reminded Paul that he would stand before Caesar, and that all those on the ship were to be spared as well.
 - 1. Rom. 4:20-21; Heb. 6:18
- B. What promises are given to God's children?
 - 1. Brighter Days - Psalm 30:5
 - 2. Deliverance - Psalm 34:19
 - 3. Future glory - Rom. 8:18; 2Cor. 4:17
- C. Dr. Everek R. Storms of Ontario wrote on the promises of Scripture in Contact Magazine, "The Scriptures contain a total of 8,810 promises." Storms classifies the promises in Scripture into eight kinds:

- There are 7,487 promises from God to man (about 85% of all promises).
- There are 991 cases of one person making a promise to another person.
- There are 290 promises from man to God.
- There are 29 promises made by the angels, most of them found in Luke.
- There are 9 promises made by Satan.
- 2 promises are made by an evil spirit.
- 2 are made by God the Father to God the Son.
- One book of the Bible contains no promise at all - Titus.
- Ephesians has only six promises.
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel have over 1,000 promises each.
- In Psalm 37, nearly every verse contains a promise.

III. 24 - THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

- A. Paul is told by the Lord that this storm is a part of God working out His plan in Paul's life. At that moment in time, that storm was the safest place in the world for Paul. He was cooperating with the will of God.
- B. If we are in a storm as a result of following the will of God, it is the safest, best place for us to be at that moment. How strong is your faith?
 1. Isa. 45:5-7; James 1:17; Psalm 57:1
- C. Raymond Edman said this in a book called Quietness and Confidence, "First, He brought me here, it is by His will I am in this strait place: in that fact I will rest. Let me say I am here by God's appointment, in His keeping, under His training, for His time."

IV. 44 - THE PERFORMANCE OF GOD

- A. What the Lord told Paul, and what Paul believed would happen, came to pass: everyone made it safely to the shore. God kept His Word.
- B. Corrie Ten Boom said it this way, "When Jesus takes your hand, He holds it tight. When Jesus holds you tight, He leads you through your whole life. When Jesus leads you through your life, He brings you safely home."
- C. Luke 1:37; Job 42:2; Eph. 3:20; John 6:37-40

Conclusion:

- A. 13-20 - Stormy times are times of despair
 1. 13 - Deception: Calm seas fool us into believing storms will not come
But, the Bible says they will - Job. 14:1, 5:7; John 16:33; Ecc. 5:15-17
 2. 14-17 - Disaster: When severe storms come our way, we often feel as if events are out of our control. Many fall into discouragement and despair
 3. 18-19 - Decision: The storm ought to make us take an inventory of our life and discard anything we do not need - 2Cor. 4:17
 4. 20 - Desperation: Even Luke gave up. When there is no daylight in your darkness, you may get to the place where you want to lay down and die
- B. 29 - Stormy times are times of danger
 1. The stormy times that we encounter in life have the potential to either make us break us. They will either drive us to seek the Lord, or they will drive us away from Him. What happens in your life is your decision

2. Job: When he was squeezed by Satan, he shouted in the devils face - Job 1:20-22
 3. Simon Peter gave us an example that is to be avoided. When he was squeezed by life, he crumbled - Luke 22:31-32; Matt. 26:69-75
- C. 21-44 - Stormy times are times of deliverance
1. We sometimes enter a storm by dismissing the instructions of the righteous; if we want to get out of the storm, we will listen to the instructions of the righteous