



Faith is not only for salvation, but for living. Saved by faith, we live by faith.

I. Paul's Identity (27:21-26) [23]

- A. He belongs to God.
- B. His identity defined his purpose: worship

II. Escapism vs. thankfulness in the face of trouble (27-38) [30, 35]

Thankfulness comes from a focus on God, not circumstances.
Thankfulness also moves us to pray.

III. Providential Plan – the sovereign plan of God. (27:39 – 28:10)

Paul faced 5 life-threatening events.
(27:9-11; 27:30; 27:42; 27:43-44; 28:3)
But God's protection was constant; "we were brought safely through" (27:44; 28:1) Passive tense shows this was the hand of God.

Note the effect of faith lived.

1. The centurion moves from ignoring Paul's counsel (27:11) to listening and wanting to protect him (27:43).
2. The sailors and other passengers must have been praying to their gods. But Jesus is shown to be supreme!
3. The Maltese hear the gospel!

How does this apply to me?

INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

THE GOSPEL BREAKS CHAINS

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Paul's voyage to Rome was probably during the winter of 60-61 AD. Arriving in Rome, he spent two years while awaiting his trial. During much of this time he was under house arrest. There is some debate about whether he was released from prison at the end of this time or not. If he was released, he may have been able to make his long awaited journey to Spain (Rom 15:24, 28) before being returned to Rome where he was finally martyred for his faith. His death was probably around AD 64, although some place it as late at AD 67.

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Arriving in Rome, Paul was initially kept under guard in a house. This provided him the opportunity to invite people to visit him so that he could share the gospel with them. He began, as was his custom, by sharing the good news of salvation through the Messiah Jesus with his fellow Jews. While some were convinced, many rejected the Messiah. Paul's quotation from Isaiah about the Jewish people's refusal to see and listen didn't endear him to them. His statement that the Gentiles would listen further alienated him from many of his own people.

Paul was bold in his preaching about Jesus. For two years he constantly shared the gospel with all who would listen. The narrative in Acts ends abruptly by telling us that Paul was "proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."

Why does it end this way? I think it is because the proclamation of the kingdom of God and teaching about Jesus with boldness doesn't end. It still goes on today. Paul was persistent in his witness until the Lord took him home. So we continue the task. The witness has fallen to us. Until our final breath and until Jesus returns, may we proclaim Him to a lost world.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 28:10-31

