

Passage to Ponder

Our Passage to Ponder this morning from today's Bible study is Acts 27:21-25. It says,

But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. (Acts 27:21-25)

As we ponder the events of the Apostle Paul's life in Acts 27 we can see 3 parallel's to the Christian life.

1. We see that Paul was divinely protected by God as he sailed through stormy seas on a Roman cargo ship. Historians say that each peace of Roman cargo would have a wax seal to identify and protect it.

Paul also had a seal he tells us what it is in Ephesians 1:13, he said, In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Paul had the seal of the Holy Spirit to show everyone that he belonged to Jesus, and not only that but the seal of the Holy Spirit unlike Casers seal comes with divine protection and a guarantee that he would make it to his final destination.

This morning if you're a Christian God has sealed you with His Holy Spirit, it bear's witness to the world of who you belong to and it reminds you like an engagement ring dose that one day you will be with Jesus at our final destination of the New Jerusalem.

2. Another thing we see in this passage is although we have born again and sealed with God's Spirit it doesn't mean that we will sail to our final destination through calm seas. We will like Paul in this chapter will face trials and storms as we go through life.

3. We see that God has given us the resources to rise about the storms of life and have peace and encourage others.

In verses 21-25 stood up and spoke to 275 afraid and dishearten people who through they were going to die. He told them not to be afraid, and take heart because an angel of my God came and spoke to me and said "I must stand before Caesar; God will bring us through this storm."

Paul went on to say again in verse 25, "Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me."

Paul was able to rise above the storm and have peace and encourage others because He believed God's word and promise that he would stand in front of Caesar.

You and I can have peace and encourage other like Paul as we trust in God's promises that are given to us in His inspired inherent word. The promise that we have is in Revelation 21:2-5,

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." (Revelation 21:2-5)

In conclusion let's trust God's Word so that like Paul we can say," take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me."