

FOUNDATIONS: Calm in the storm ... **Trusting God**, a light to others

<p>“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” <u>John 6: 33</u></p> <p>“I leave you peace; My peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don’t let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” <u>John 14: 27</u></p>	<p>“Trust in the LORD with all of your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all of your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your path straight.” <u>Prov. 3: 5 – 6</u></p> <p>“For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set controlled by the Spirit finds life and peace.” <u>Rom. 8: 6</u></p>
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After meetings with Governor Festus (replacing the ‘failed’ Governor Felix who was recalled to Rome) and King Herod Agrippa II, Paul was granted his request: “an appeal to Caesar by a Roman citizen”. Paul would appeal his innocence at the highest level. It is 59 C.E. ...

Luke writes,

“It was decided that we would sail for Italy. A Roman officer named Julius, who served in the emperor’s army, guarded Paul and some other prisoners. ² At Caesarea, we got on a ship that was from the city of Adramyttium and that was to sail to different ports in the Mediterranean. Aristarchus, a man from the city of Thessalonica in Macedonia, went with us. ³ The next day we came to Sidon. Julius was very good to Paul and gave him freedom to go visit his friends, who took care of his needs. ⁴ We left Sidon and sailed close to the island of Cyprus, because the wind was blowing against us. ⁵ We went across the sea by Cilicia and Pamphylia and landed at the city of Myra, in Lycia. ⁶ Julius found a ship from Alexandria [Egypt] that was going to Italy, so he put us on it.

⁷ Paul, myself, the ships’ crew, several passengers, the Roman guards and other prisoners that were aboard this ship, sailed slowly for many days. We had a hard time reaching Cnidus (on the island of Crete) because the wind was blowing against us, and we could not go any farther. We sailed by the south side of the island of Crete near Salmone. ⁸ Sailing past it was hard. Then we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea (on Crete).

⁹ **We had lost much time, and it was now dangerous to sail**, because it was already after the **Day of Atonement** [*late September/early October is storm season!*]. So **Paul warned them**,

¹⁰ “Men, I can see there will be a lot of trouble on this trip. The ship, the cargo, and even our lives may be lost.”

¹¹ Anxious for profit and confident in his abilities, the captain and the owner of the ship did not agree with Paul. **Julius believed what the captain and owner of the ship said**. ¹² Since Fair Havens harbor was not a good place for the ship to stay for the winter (*it was open and exposed to the seas*), most of the men decided that the ship should leave. They hoped we could go to the port of Phoenix, staying there for the winter. Phoenix, a city on the island of Crete, had a harbor which faced southwest and northwest.

¹³ When a fair wind began to blow from the south, the men on the ship thought, “*This is the wind we wanted, and now we have it.*” So they pulled up the anchor, and we sailed very close to the island of Crete. ¹⁴ But then a very strong wind named the “northeaster” came from the island. ¹⁵ **The ship was caught in it and could not sail against it. We stopped trying and let the wind carry us.**

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¹⁶ When we went below a small island named Cauda, we were barely able to bring in the lifeboat. ¹⁷ After the men **took the lifeboat in**, they **tied ropes around the ship to hold it together**. The men were afraid that the ship would hit the sandbanks of Syrtis, so they **lowered the sail and let the wind carry the ship**. ¹⁸ The next day the storm was blowing us so hard that the men **threw out some of the cargo**. ¹⁹ A day later with their own hands they **threw out the ship's rigging equipment**. ²⁰ When we could not see the sun or the stars for many days, and the storm was very bad, we **lost all hope of being saved**.

²¹ After the men had **gone without food for a long time**, Paul stood up before them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me. You should not have sailed from Crete. Then you would not have all this trouble and loss. ²² But now I tell you to **cheer up** because none of you will die. Only the ship will be lost. ²³ Last night **an angel came to me from the God I belong to and worship**. ²⁴ **The angel said, 'Paul, do not be afraid. You must stand before Caesar. And God has promised you that He will save the lives of everyone sailing with you.'** ²⁵ So men, have courage. **I trust in God** that everything will happen as **His angel told me**. ²⁶ But we will crash on an island."

²⁷ On the **fourteenth night** we were still being carried around in the Adriatic Sea. About midnight the sailors thought we were close to land, ²⁸ so they lowered a rope with a weight on the end of it into the water. They found that the water was one hundred twenty feet deep. They went a little farther and lowered the rope again. It was ninety feet deep. ²⁹ The sailors were afraid that we would hit the rocks, so they threw four anchors into the water and prayed for daylight to come.

³⁰ Some of the sailors wanted to leave the ship, and they lowered the lifeboat, pretending they were throwing more anchors from the front of the ship. ³¹ But Paul told the officer and the other soldiers, "**If these men do not stay in the ship, your lives cannot be saved.**" ³² So the soldiers cut the ropes and let the lifeboat fall into the water.

³³ Just before dawn Paul began persuading all the people to eat something. He said, "For the past **fourteen days** you have been waiting and watching and not eating. ³⁴ Now I beg you to eat something. You need it to stay alive. None of you will lose even one hair off your heads."

³⁵ After he said this, **Paul took some bread and thanked God for it before all of them**. He broke off a piece and began eating. ³⁶ They all felt better and started eating, too. ³⁷ There were **two hundred seventy-six people** on the ship. ³⁸ When they had eaten all they wanted, they began **making the ship lighter by throwing the grain into the sea**.

³⁹ When daylight came, the sailors saw land. They did not know what land it was, but they saw a bay with a beach and wanted to sail the ship to the beach if they could. ⁴⁰ So they **cut the ropes to the anchors** and left the anchors in the sea. At the same time, they **untied the ropes that were holding the rudders**. Then they **raised the front sail into the wind** and **sailed toward the beach**. ⁴¹ But the ship **hit a sandbank**. The front of the ship stuck there and could not move, but the **back of the ship began to break up** from the big waves.

⁴² The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so none of them could swim away and escape.

⁴³ But Julius, the officer, wanted to let Paul live and *did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners*. Julius ordered **everyone who could swim to jump into the water first and swim to land**. ⁴⁴ The **rest were to follow using wooden boards or pieces of the ship**. And this is how **all the people made it safely to land, the island of Malta.**" Acts 27: 1 – 44