

ONE message. people. mission.



Trusting the Sovereign Lord Acts 27 – 28.16

Main Idea

The Lord is Sovereign in acting out His plan to reach the nations, so we must trust Him as we act out that mission.

Setup

The Lord promised Paul in Acts 23.11: Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.

The Lord is Providentially moving to deliver on His Sovereign Grace of a Promise.

Overview

- **Paul's Journey was very tumultuous**
 - Vs. 4: Winds were against them
 - Vs. 7: Arrive with difficulty off Cnidus...wind did not ALLOW us to go farther
 - Vs. 8: Coast along Crete with difficulty
 - Vs. 14: Tempestuous wind, called northeaster: ship is driven along by winds
 - Vs. 18: Violently storm tossed
 - Vs. 20: No sun or stars could be seen in order to navigate the ship
 - Vs. 40: Strike a reef and the whole ship is lost
 - Yet: The Lord is delivering Paul in/through the storms
- **Paul receives another promise from Angel of God that they will all be delivered (27.22-27)**
 - God "grants" that they will be delivered (27.24)
 - God determines that Paul will stand before Caesar (27.24)
 - They are all delivered (27.44) and they make it to Rome safely (28.16)
- **Paul trusts the Sovereign Lord and takes courage as well as calling others to do the same (27.22, 24)**
 - Paul trusted the Lord that "not even a hair is to perish from the head of any of you" (27.34)
 - Trusted God in prayer to deliver and heal (27.35, 28.8)
 - Others took encouragement from Paul's Trust (27.36)

Questions

Discussion starter: Discuss things that you very strongly trust everyday, from light switches to a spouse...where are you displaying trust and why?

1. What does it mean for God to be "Sovereign?"
2. What is the difference between the "Sovereignty" of God and the "Providence" of God? (Rule vs. Activity) Can you give examples of each?
3. How do we see the Lord as Sovereign in this story?
4. Why do you think the author repeatedly highlights the difficulty/suffering of the journey?
5. How do these things comfort you?
6. What does it mean to "belong" to God (27.23) and how does that drive our trust?
7. What does the relationship of the confidence in the Sovereignty of the Lord have to do with our trust?
8. Where do you see that relationship working out in this passage?
9. Why is it not enough to live only out of gratitude for the Gospel, but more so, one must live in trust?
10. Share some promises that have provided trust in believing going forward.

Accountability Question: What are some areas you are not trusting the Lord in and therein doubting His Sovereignty? What is a passage of Scripture that speaks to that issue?