



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- As we begin our study of Acts 27 we see:
  - “The voyage of life”
  - Which is an expression drawn from the close analogy from birth to the grave,
  - And the progress one makes along the way.

- The Christian metaphor of life **tossed upon the waves** of this troublesome world,
  - Yet finally reaching **the land of everlasting life.**
    - Let us note **some of the points of resemblance in a Christian's life** to the apostle's voyage as described in **Acts 27.**

- **First**, there is in both **a definite purpose.**
- The ship is making for **a particular port;**
  - The Christian is definitely seeking to attain the **kingdom of heaven.**

- The passing **circumstances**,
- The shifting **situations**,
- The immediate surroundings of the day,  
**limit our view**,
- And the intermediate **seems to us as the final**,
- Or at least shuts **the final out from view.**

•The lesson is,  
**keep steadily in view,**  
**in sunshine**  
**and in storm,**  
under every variety  
of outward *circumstance,*  
**the great end of**  
**the Christian life.**

- That is to dwell with Christ **in glory for ever,**
- And make every effort **to reach that end.**
  - Then, again,  
let us notice  
in the Christian life,  
**the similar voyage**  
**in Paul's trip to Rome.**

- There is the **fixed will and purpose,**

- There are also the:

- **Hindrances**

and

- **Disappointments,**

- **Obstacles**

that arise

- **unexpected.**

- There is the pleasant start,

•

- The cheerful beginning  
which seemed  
full of promise  
for a prosperous future.

- But these are succeeded by **dull delays** and **disheartening experiences.**
- We have to deal with events **of which we had not taken count.**

- By-and-by,  
when we think  
we see signs  
of improvement,  
**things suddenly take  
a turn for the worse.**

- And our journey  
**is in imminent danger**  
**of shipwreck.**

- Happy is he who  
at such times  
lays fast hold of  
**the promises of God,**  
and  
**perseveres to the end.**

- Only let each trial teach patience and long-suffering,
- Knowing that in due time all will be exchanged for the peace and safety of everlasting of glory in the presence of the Lord Jesus.

- **Let nothing shake your faith**  
or dim your hope,
  - And then the  
most troubled voyage  
shall have a blessed end;
  - **And finally the words**
    - **Matthew 25:21**  
**Well done,**  
***thou good and***  
**faithful servant:**

- Acts 27:1

*And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy!*

- And on that journey faith is put to the test.

- It isn't long until there is a storm at sea.

- **How powerless and feeble,**  
man appears,  
when contending with  
the mighty forces of nature!
- The stoutest heart then **fail.**
  - The most reckless are  
**seen on their knees.**

## Matthew 14:25

And in the fourth watch  
of the night  
Jesus went unto them,  
walking on the sea.

14:26 And when the disciples saw him  
they were troubled, saying,  
It is a spirit;  
and they cried out for fear.

14:27 But ...Jesus spake unto them,  
saying,  
Be of good cheer;  
it is I; be not afraid.

- In the hour of the disciples' need Jesus came to them.
- When the wind was contrary and life was a struggle, Jesus was there to help.
  - No sooner had a need arisen, than Jesus was there to help and to save.

- In life the wind is often contrary.
  - And life is a desperate struggle
    - with ourselves,
- with our circumstances,
- with our temptations,
  - with our sorrows,
- with our decisions.

- At such a time  
**no man/woman need struggle alone,**
- For Jesus comes to him/her  
**across the storms of life,**
  - Bidding us take heart  
**and have no fear.**
- When the wind is contrary  
**and we are in danger**  
**of being overwhelmed**  
by the storms of life.

- Life is not always calm.
  - Life's autumn is no better than life's springtime.
  - All will know times of stormy wind and rolling seas.
  - All will one day be in the grip of death.
  - And then what?

- It is here  
we find Paul  
amidst the  
storms of life.
- We have here a  
striking example of  
Christian life  
and influence.

- Paul had resources of strength and comfort that those around him had not,
- And he becomes their comforter and adviser.
  - Ecclesiastes 4:9  
Two are better than one;...  
4:10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow:  
but woe to him  
that is alone when he falls;  
for *he does not have*  
another to help him up.

- **Three times**  
**I suffered shipwreck:  
a night and a day  
I have been in the deep.”**  
**(2 Corinthians 11:25)**
- This Paul wrote to the Corinthians more than **two years** before.
- Of those earlier shipwrecks **we have no record.**
- But here we have a detailed account of **a fourth shipwreck.**

- In life we find true and false counselors.
- Paul stands for the true.
  - Act 27:10

**Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.**



- The master and owner stand for the false.
  - Acts 27:11

**Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.** <sup>26</sup>

- Thus there are ever counselors wanting to give advise.;
- Some pointing to the right path, and some to the wrong;
  - Some the apostles of God, and some the emissaries of hell.

- 1John 4:1

**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

- It may be that they thought Paul beside himself due to the danger they were in.
  - A landlubber giving nautical advise.
- Remember the word of Festus in Acts 26:24

**Festus said with a loud voice,  
Paul, thou art beside thyself;  
much learning doth  
make thee mad.**

- **Men follow the false**  
because it is--
- **1.** More compatible.
  - **2.** Popular.
  - **3.** Attractive.

- **2 Corinthians 11:13**

**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.**

**11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

**11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.**

- If the evil that assails us we were to show its true colors we would run from it.
  - But too often we are dazzled by its seeming beauty.
  - And therein lies our peril.

- Let us now talk of  
some ways  
in which this  
transfiguration of evil  
effects us.

(**1**) Evil is transfigured  
by imagination.

- Imagination  
is ever active

in lending to evil things  
a false splendor.

- In the Amazon lives a brilliant spider that spread itself out as a flower, and the insects lighting **upon it seeking sweetness, find death.**
- Such transformations are **common in life;**
- Displaying themselves **as innocence,**
  - They trap the **unsuspecting.**

- (2) Evil is transfigured by philosophy.

- In matters of

faith and worship

we may be misled by philosophy.

- Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

**See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit,**

**according to human tradition, ... and not according to Christ.**

- (3) Evil is transfigured by society.
- Through ages society has gained an exquisite skill in enjoying the pleasures of sin while stripping sin of its grossness.

- Pride,
  - Lust,
  - Selfishness,
  - Adultery
  - Dishonesty,
- abound in the social circle,
- But the revolting features of these vices are lost under the paint and powder of new terminology.

- Next, we find that fair winds are not always the best course.

- Acts 27:13

And when the south wind  
blew softly,

- There are periods in life when the warm winds blow softly:

- 1. Youth.
- 2. Health.
- 3. Prosperity.

- Let us not forget that **the chief danger of life lies in this moral illusion.**

- We need ever to be on the watch, seeing that Satan **conceals his evil purposes under false pretenses.**

- **Matthew 16:6** (ESV)
- **Jesus said to them, “Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”**
- People are led astray **by smooth talking preachers.**
  - Cheap faith
  - Just “believe”
  - Prosperity salvation.
    - Etc.

## Acts 27:14

Soon a powerful wind  
(called a northeaster)  
blew from the island.

27:15 The wind carried  
the ship away, and we couldn't  
sail against the wind.  
We couldn't do anything,  
so we were carried along  
by the wind.

- It can easily be seen what peril they were in.
- Then an amazing thing happened.
- Paul took command;
  - The prisoner became the captain,
- For he was the only man with any courage left.

- **Act 27:18**

**And we being exceedingly tossed**

with a tempest, the next day  
they lightened the ship;

- **27:19** And the **third day** we cast out with  
our own hands the tackling of the ship.

- **27:20** And when

**neither sun nor stars**

in many days appeared, and no small  
tempest lay on us, **all hope** that we  
should be saved was then taken away.

- Acts 27:22

**And now I exhort you  
to be of good cheer;  
for there shall be  
no loss of life  
among you,  
but only of the ship.**

- Date: Sometime 1500
- It is told that on one of his voyages the crew of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's ship were terrified;
  - They felt that they were sailing right out of the world in the mists and the storms and the unknown seas.
  - They asked him to turn back.  
He would not do it.
  - "I am as near to God by sea,  
as ever I was by land."
  - The man of God stands when terror invades the hearts of others.

- **Job 22:21**

**Acquaint now thyself with him,  
and be at peace:**

**Thereby good shall come unto  
thee.**

- As you read  
**Chapter 27**  
we find the ship  
in desperate trouble.

- By this time they had lost all control of the ship and were in eminent danger.
- V. 33 states that due to the trauma they had not eaten much in two weeks.
  - Now, what does Paul suggest?
  - V. 34 That they should eat.
  - There is an old adage that states: ”God helps those who help themselves.”
  - Paul had not the slightest doubt that God would do his part but he also knew that they must do theirs.

- Acts 27:36

**Then were they all of good cheer,**

- How can one be of  
“good cheer”

at sea in a storm-tossed sea  
and in a leaky boat?

- Danger is always  
a test of character.
- One man is frightened,
- Another bewildered,
- Another irritated,
- Another selfish.
- Another helpless.
- We find none of this  
in God's man, Paul.

- What do we learn from this chapter?
- **# 1** That life is often stormy.
- **# 2** That in the tempest of life some days  
“no sun nor stars appear.”
- **# 3** The promise of God is,  
“the Lord knoweth them that are His.”

- And on that note let us notice the promise of God.
- V. 24 "Lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee."

- **It was not necessary**  
for God to save  
the whole ship's company  
in order to prolong Paul's life  
that he might stand  
before Nero;
  - But it was on  
**Paul's account**  
that the rest were saved.

- **It was by Lot's presence**  
that the impending  
fiery storm on Sodom  
**was delayed.**
- No real disciple  
can ever know  
the full extent of  
his/her influence  
**upon the ungodly.**

- **Acts 27:44**

**And so it came to pass,  
that they escaped  
all safe to land.**

- In the financial panic  
of **1857**,  
when the best business  
was a financial mess.

- A **Dr. Bushnell**  
published in the  
local newspaper

**a sermon**  
**based on this chapter.**

- The lesson of it  
**was obvious.**

- There are many times  
**when in the storms of life,**  
there is nothing for us to do  
but to stand still

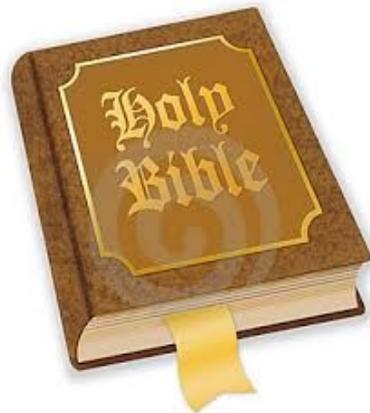
- and wait till**  
**the storm passes by.**

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**



- 10-18-2020 Tryon, NC

- Safe in the arms of Jesus.