

Saturday, August 12, 2023 • Read Acts 27:1–28:10

Questions from the Scripture text: What was decided in v1? Who is going with Paul? Who was delivered with him? To whom? What did they enter in v2? Where did they sail? Who was sailing with Paul and Luke (cf. Ac 19:29)? Where did they land in v3? How was Julius treating Paul? By giving him liberty to do what? What route did they take to end up where by the end of v5? What did Julius find there (v6)? What did he do? How was the sailing going now (v7)? Where did they have to reroute until ending up where by the end of v8? What had been spent (v9)? Why was sailing dangerous? What did Paul do? What did he observe (v10)? By which two people was the centurion more persuaded (v11)? Who else gave the same advice (v12)? Why? Where did they hope to winter? What happened, to which they supposed what (v13)? What did they do? How soon did what happen (v14)? What couldn't the ship do (v15)? What did they do? Where did they end up in v16? What could they barely do there? What precautions did they take in v17? Then what the next day (v18)? And the next (v19)? What don't they see for how long (v20)? What happens all this time? What do they give up? What weren't they doing v21? What does Paul stand up to do? What does he say that they didn't do before? But what does he urge them to do now (v22)? What does he say won't, and will, be lost? Who had stood by him (v23)? How does he describe God? What does he do unto God? What did the angel tell Paul not to do (v24)? What must happen to him? What has God granted (bequeathed, lavished upon) him? What command does Paul now repeat (v25, cf. v22a)? Whom does he believe? What does he believe? What does he conclude must happen (v26)? How long has the storm gone in v27? What was happening to them? What did the sailors sense, when? What data supported this in v28? What did they fear (v29)? What did they do? For what did they plead? What were the sailors trying to do in v30? What does Paul say to whom (v31)? What do the soldiers do (v32)? What does Paul implore them to do in v33? How long had they fasted? For what purpose does he urge them to eat (v34)? What does he then take (v35)? What does he do in the presence of them all? How does he show that he's distributing it to them, too? How many ate (v37)? How much did they eat (v38)? What did they do with the rest of the wheat? What time came in v39? What did they note about the land? What did they hope to do? What did they now get rid of (v40)? Then what did they do? Where did they end up running aground instead (v41)? With what result? Now what did the soldiers plan to do (v42)? Why? Who stopped them (v43)? Why? What did he command instead? And what were the rest of them supposed to do (v44)? What were they able to do (28:1)? What did they find out? What does v2 note about the natives' kindness? What did they do for them? Who was helping do what in v3? But what happened? Who saw this (v4)? What did they conclude? But what did Paul do (v5)? And what happened (v6)? Then what did they conclude? Who had an estate in that region (v7)? What did he do? What difficulty did he face (v8)? But what did Paul do? With what result? Then what happened (v9)? And what was done for how long (v10, cf. v11)?

What do Christians do for their unbelieving neighbors? Acts 27:1–28:10 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these fifty-four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **with their neighbors, Christians act as those who belong to God, praying and laboring for their neighbors' earthly and eternal good.**

Walking by faith, not by sight. In the Christian life, there is always more than meets the eyes. So, as holy Scripture teaches us, we walk by faith, not by sight (2Cor 5:7). To the eye of sight, it looks like Paul is bound and that his life is constantly in danger from shipwreck (v20), from soldiers who don't wish to lose prisoners (v42), from venomous snakes (v3), etc. But to the eye of faith, Paul "must bear witness at Rome" (cf. 23:11) and "must be brought before Caesar" (v24), because the eye of faith "believe[s] God that it will be just as it was told me" (v25).

Faith not only believes God's Word but believes that it is God Who is at work in His world. So when Julius treats Paul kindly in v3, it is because God Himself is treating Paul kindly. And when Julius gives him liberty, it is because God Himself is giving Paul liberty. And when the sailing is with difficulty in vv7–9, it is still because God is treating Paul with love and ordering all things according to His will. And the same even with the great storm in vv13–20.

Other people don't always listen to us. Paul's good counsel in 27:10 was rejected. But the Christian always has the ear of God, always has the intercession of Christ, always has the service of the angels. God doesn't always do what we say, because we do not always say rightly. But He always lavishly grants whatever is good! So, whether the Lord stands by Paul and the whole island of Malta honors him (28:10), or the Lord stands by Paul when his own children in the faith abandon him (cf. 2Tim 4:14–17), he may always be sure that the Lord stands by him.

Working wisely by faith. Of course, believing that God is at work in His world is not an excuse to act neglectfully or foolishly but a help to act wisely and prudently. For now, it is not merely the mechanics of sailing and meteorology that suggests that you shouldn't sail at the wrong time (v10). Nor is it merely the mechanics of psychology that suggests you should take heart (v22, 25) or the mechanics of biology that suggests you should take nourishment when about to be physically taxed (v33).

Faith sees God as working through physics and meteorology and biology. Faith sees everything that happens in the world as personal and providential. And since God has appointed means by which He works, responsibility and diligence and wisdom and prudence become opportunities to trust Him Who made the world this way, and to depend upon Him in acting consistently with how He made things, and to accept His generous invitation to be participants in His work by walking in wisdom.

Praying for good to the God Who is good. And since providence is personal, faith also prays to God for that which the naturalist or humanist cannot hope for. The others had given up hope in v20, but what did Paul do? He prayed! The angel tells him in v24 that that "God has granted you all those who sail with you." Paul had prayed not only for himself but for everyone on board. Those whose folly had gotten him into this position, other prisoners who were probably guilty of their crimes, soldiers who would have been ready to execute him if convenient... Paul had prayed for everyone!

And he prayed not as the unbelieving pray. Many even who profess faith in Christ are unbelieving and pray as those hoping against hope or groveling for scraps. Paul had prayed to God as one who belongs to God. Paul had prayed to God as one who worships God. He prayed with the confidence of fellowshiping and worshiping. And God lavished his request upon him. Again, Paul prays for all in the presence of all, when he has not only encouraged but now feeds the whole ship (v33–37).

Then in Malta, his concern is more than just for himself. Even at this stage of his life, the man whom many attend in his declining physical ability is found gathering sticks and laying them on the fire for the protection of all from the rain and from the cold. Paul had confidence in the Lord that the viper in 28:4 could not kill him, because he must appear before Caesar, and surely he knew that the cold and rain could not take him either. His concern was for his brothers and neighbors. And this concern overflows one more time into prayer with Publius's father (v8), and another multitude of times with the whole rest of the island (v9).

Walking in wisdom as those who wish others to be with us and with God. Finally, faith desires company. It desires others to take heart. It desires others to be wise. It desires others to come to belong to the God to whom we belong. It desires others to come to worship the God that we worship. For, it is more powerful to belong to this God and to worship this God, than even if one could be a so-called "god" like those the world imagines (28:6). So faith desires what God desires and prays and labors to see it come about, all in dependence upon the Lord Himself.

What providence has God been personally giving you in His kindness? How do you describe Him to others? How do you think of Him for yourself? For whose earthly and eternal good have you been asking God?

Sample prayer: Father, we thank You that we may believe You that all will be just as You have told us. You are the God to whom we belong and whom we worship. Grant that we would be people of prayer for the earthly and eternal good of those around us. And grant that good for which we pray, as we ask it through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH238 "Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Acts 27. Verse 1 through 28. Verse 10. These are God's words.

And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius a centurion of the Augustin regiment. So entering a ship of Adramyttium. We put to sea meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. There were Starbuck and Macedonian and Festus was with us.

And the next day we landed at Sidon. Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty. To go to his friends and receive care. When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus. Because the winds were contrary. And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cea and Pamphilia, we came to Myra to study of Licia.

There, the centurion found a ship sailing to Italy. And he put us on board. When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Crete. The wind not permitting us to proceed. We sailed under the shelter of Crete of Salomon, passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens.

Near the city of Lasea now, in much time had been spent and sailing was now dangerous. Because the fast was already over. Whole. Advise them saying men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster. And much loss. Not only in the cargo and crew. But also our lives.

Nevertheless, it was a dream more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship. And by the things spoken by Paul. And because the harbor was not suitable to enter in the majority advice to set sail from there. Also. If by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Greece.

Opening toward the southwest and northwest. And went to there. When this half wind of blue softly supposing that they had obtained their desire putting out to sea they sailed close by Greece. But not long after a tempestuous headwind arose called a Euroclydean. Are you applied? So in the ship was caught and could not head into the wind, we let her drive and running her under and running under the shelter of an island called Clauda.

We secured the skiff with difficulty, and they had taken it on board. They used cables to undergird the ship. And fearing lest they should run aground on the certain sands, they struck sail. And so we're driven. And because we were exceedingly tossed. The next day they lighten the ship.

On the third day, we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands. Now, when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us. All hope that we would be saved. Was finally given up. But after long absence 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.

But 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. However, we must run aground on a certain island. Now in the 14th night had come, this we were driven up and down in the Adriatic sea.

About midnight the sailor's sense that they were drawing near some land. And they took soundings and found it to be 25 fathoms. When they're going a little farther, they took soundings again. And found it to be 15 fathoms. Then fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks.

They dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. As the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship when they had let down the skiff into the sea under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow. Paul sent the centurion in the soldiers. Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.

Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the scaffold, let it fall off. And as day was about to dawn, Paul employed them all to take food saying, Today is the 14th day. You have waited and continued without eating food. Without food and eaten nothing. Therefore, I urge you to take nourishment for this is for your survival.

Since not, a hair will fall from the head of any of you. And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to go out in the presence of them all. And when he had broken it, he began to eat. Then they were all encouraged and also took food themselves.

And in all there were two, we were 2076 persons on the ship. So when they had eaten enough, they lighten the ship and threw the throughout the wheat. Into the sea. When it was day, they did not recognize the land. But they observed a bay with a beach. Onto which they planned to run the ship if possible.

And they let go the anchors and left them in the sea. Meanwhile, losing the rudder ropes. And they hoisted, the main sail to the wind and made for sure. But, Striking a place, where two currents met. They ran the ship aground. And the prow stuck fast and remained immovable.

But the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves. Let's hold his plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape? But this centurion wanting to say, Paul. Kept them from their purpose. And commanded. Those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land.

And the rest, some on boards. Some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely. To land. Now, when they had escaped, they found out that the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us unusual kindness. For they kindle a fire and made us all.

Welcome because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, A viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. So, in the native saw the creature hanging from his hand.

They said to one another, no doubt. This man is a murderer. Whom though he has escaped the sea yet, justice does not allow to live. But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. However, they were expecting that he would swell up, or suddenly fall down dead.

But after they had looked for a long time and saw, no, I'm come to him. They changed their minds and said that he was a God. And that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island. His name was Publius. Who received us and entertained us courteously for three days?

And it happened that the father of Publius was sick, Of a fever and dysentery. Paul went into him and prayed. The latest hands on him and healed him. So, if this was done, The rest of those on the island who had diseases. Also, were healed. They also honored us in many ways.

And when we departed, they provided such things. As we're necessary.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent work.

In the christian life, there is always more than meets the eyes. We see so little and we understand so little of what we see, To the eye of sight. It looks like paul is bound and his life is constantly endangered. Danger from storm and danger from shipwreck and danger from soldiers.

You don't want to lose prisoners. Endanger from venomous snakes. But to the eye of faith. Paul must bear witness at rome. As he had been told all the way back. In chapter 23 and verse 11. He must be brought before Caesar as he's told again now. In verse 24 of chapter 27.

The eye of faith. Believes god, that it was just as it was told me. And so, there's a lot in the christian life where Um, you have to choose between believing but your eye thinks it sees and How things seem to be going. Uh, you have to choose between that and what god has said, And faith says, If it's Between.

The bible and how things look. Well then how things look comes from my eye and the bible comes from god. And between those two, i believe god And so the wording in verse 20, 25 is very important. I believe god. That it will be just as it was told me.

And so he's weighing two sources of truth. Against one another. It's a questions are those who Walk by faith and not by sight. Faith doesn't. Let go and let god. Okay, faith works. Faith walks, according to wisdom, faith knows that this is god's world. And that what actual knowledge we have what, right?

Nods we have and what wisdom we have. From this world. As we should employ trusting god to produce. Whatever his wise and good providence, decides his best to produce. And so, faith doesn't say. I know that this is the wrong time to sail, but let's go on anyway and see what happens.

Maybe god will save us. No, faith says This is the wrong time to sail. We've learned that from god's world. He makes things predictable and observable and learnable. Intentionally. And, And so, And i perceive that if we, If we tried to sell now it will be with great loss.

Faith, does things like I know that you think superstitiously with all the gods that you serve that if you keep on, not eating things will be better. But i have god's word and i understand god's world well enough. To know that nourishment is a good idea. If you're going to have to be battling for your life in the morning, Faith sees the cold and the rain.

And, That. Works alongside everyone else gathering sticks. And laying them on the fire. So, faith works. Not working, isn't faith. It's unbelief. First, we believe god's word, but then we also work. Trust in god's providence. And we trust that god hears us, So faith, trusts what god says to us, we trusts the wisdom that god has Giving us as we understand his world faith Prescott's providence and faith trusts that it's heard by god.

Paul talked.

Was it the captain? Now, the the centurion all talked to the centurion. And centurion didn't listen, the ball. He listened to the helmsman and the owner of the ship, which if you're a centurion. And you're trying to make ship decisions as aren't exactly necessarily terrible people to listen to.

If he had known. Um, New paul was paul's experiences were and especially That paul is an apostle, the lord jesus christ, he might have listened to him on every subject over anyone else. But paul speaks the centurion, he isn't listen to, but there is someone who can always speak to and know that that one listens to him.

And that's god. And we find out what paul has been asking him for when the angel shows up. And says, Um, Do not be afraid. Paul, you must be brought from before Caesar and indeed. What else has god has paul been praying for God has granted you.

All those. Who sell with you? 276 persons. Verse 37. And so faith. Uh, walks and faith works. But faith also praise. It prays. For the good of. Itself and the brethren and even neighbors. Because he prays to the god who is good. Poll is on a mission. And for the preaching of the gospel, To the nations.

And he is imitating. God's love. For others by his desire. That all those on his on the ship. Would be saved. Since providence is personal, since we know that. Um, That god is the one here. Is at work in the world. We pray for things. That a natural man could not hope for.

Notice that? It was after all hope that we would be saved was finally given up verse 20. Well, that pole is still praying at the and that the angel comes and Gives him. Reports to him, the answer to his prayer. Faith can Pray to god for and hope in god for Things that the natural man doesn't think is possible.

And we should remember that. When praying, not only for the earthly good of our neighbors, Uh, but especially when praying For the eternal, good of our neighbors. You notice also paul. I didn't just pray for. The 276. On the shit. But when you gets, Uh, tamalta. And he finds Poblus's, dad, sick and Sick with fever and dysentery.

He goes in and he prays for him. And lays his hands on him and heals him. And so, Paul prays for him. And when verse 9 says, when this was done the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came And were healed, the implication is in the same way.

And we must when we read paul's prayers, In all of his letters, conclude, Is impossible. Not to complete. The fall is spraying more than just for the earthly. Good. That men would, Um, To make it safely off the shed that That these Uh, you have diseases would be healed.

But he's faith, praise because it knows god. And it cares about what god. Cares about And said, faith. It doesn't just walk in wisdom and pray for others. Good. It praises as Uh, one who desires company. Desires that others would know our god would belong to our god, that desires others.

That others would worship god. This is how. Paul identifies god, the god to whom i belong. And the god whom i worship. But indeed, we know that his desire is that all would belong to him. And the way that paul belongs to him, that all would worship god. Than the way.

The poll worships god. That they would stop being superstitious. And idolatrous like these citizens of malta. And realize. That it's actually more powerful to belong to the one true god. Than it would have been to be. One of these imaginary deities that they thought were got. Faith desires. For others to belong to god and worship god.

And so i hope that you have faith, you know, that Even if others don't listen to you, god always listens to you. Doesn't mean you always does what you say? Because he knows better than you. We always listens to you. I hope you know that the lord protects you and helps you So there's nothing that can harm you or destroy you.

So long, this god has worked left for you to do in this. This world. And he will at last save you out of every trouble. I hope that you don't think that it's trusting god to not try hard. Or to not use wisdom. He commands us to work and he gives us wisdom.

I hope you. Do things like your school. Because this world belongs to god and the more wisdom and skill and knowledge, you accumulate the better, you'll be able to walk in wisdom. And i hope you care about others. Desire, they're good. Pray for their good earthly. Good, too. Like the men on the ship and Publicist's, dad and the rest of the island of Malta.

But especially eternal good. That you who enjoy belonging to god. And you who enjoy worshipping god? What desire that others would enjoy the same. Belonging to him. And worshipping him. Let's pray. Our gracious god and i heavenly father. We thank you. For this portion of your word, we pray that you would Lesson to us and

give us to live.

And knowledge of you and fellowship with you. That we would know you to be the god to whom we've along and the god whom we worship. And that with our hearts, then. Being conformed to christ's aren't. We would desire and pray for others. Good earthly and eternal. Help us lords to work.

As those who know that you are blessing it. Unto whatever your goodness. And wisdom, had purposed. But we ask it in jesus name. Amen.