

**Introduction:** Paul's goal at this point in his ministry is to testify before anyone he can, but especially officials of the government. He is fulfilling what was spoken of Him in Acts 9:15,16.

Questions to ponder: What is the goal of your life right now? What difference will your goals make for eternity? Is there something earlier in your life that you believed you were to do for the Lord Jesus but have not fulfilled? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul has used his position as a Roman citizen as a vehicle to hopefully get him to testify before Caesar. (Acts 26:32). Is there a rare privilege or position that you have that can get you to testify before people that others could not do as easily as you can? \_\_\_\_\_

The apostle Paul's life has been an adventure. Even before his encounter with Jesus. But his journey to Rome is going to be one he will never forget, and Luke dedicates much ink and papyrus to tell the story.

**1. It was decided to set sail. Acts 27:1-10**

How many decisions do you think an average person makes in one day? \_\_\_\_\_

In this account it is decided that Paul and those with him will be required to set sail for Rome. This decision goes counter to the wisdom of the day and in contradiction of the realities of God's creative order. The reference to the Day of Atonement is important. This would have made it late September or early October. This is after the time when ships should have been sailing in this part of the world. Their decision was counter to Roman, Jewish and God's schedule.

Have you ever made a decision that was counter to known realities and put yourself at risk? What was the outcome? \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Bad advice = Bad decisions. Acts 27:11-12.**

Here we see the result of one bad decision. The next decision to be made has no good option. Either stay in a port that isn't suitable for wintering or go out on the open sea in a dangerous season.

There is so much that could be said here. For instance, how often the experts and the majority are wrong. (See 1 Cor. 2:11-16). Being in a hurry is often not the best choice. Ignoring established parameters and conventional thinking are guardrails that generally should be followed and to ignore them has risk involved. Risk that we may regret. Paul appears to be the only sound thinker on the ship. Yet he is ignored. Paul has faith in God but also can reason well. Faith and reason do go hand in hand. Both have a place in the life of the Christian. But Paul is not humanly in charge, others are. God ultimately will protect Paul and those in the ship, yet because of their disconnect with the God who made them, they make bad decisions.

Proverbs 1:1-7

This is why things are so out of order in our nation and world today. Fools who reject the wisdom of God. Where God is not honored and obeyed. There is chaos.

What examples do you see of this in our world today? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. The Storm Begins. Acts 27:13-20**

A great story that serves as a metaphor.

"...The peoples of the world (represented by the ships passengers) stand under the threat of God's judgment. (represented by the terrible storm), with Paul and what he represents being their only hope. On board are representatives of the world's economic, military, and political powers and those skilled at navigating the sea, but none of these can master the raging storm to save themselves or their possessions. They escape only as they follow Paul's instructions." (NIV Study Bible) - Let us not forget that Satan would love to stop Paul on his mission.

**4. Paul Brings Order and Hope. Acts 27:21-26**

Paul delivers the message God gave him. They were foolish, but God will save their lives- however it will cost the owners and pilot their ship. The reason they will be saved is on behalf of Paul and his faith and his mission. This message of God through Paul will serve as a witness of Jesus Christ to all 276 on board. Have you ever considered that God's mercy is being extended to others because of your faith and obedience?

This is how the absolute chaos of the great tribulation will commence. With the removal of all those who have faith in Jesus Christ and sound reasoning. 2 Thess. 2:1-8.

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**5. Paul rescues the ship. Acts 27:27-32**

Without fail, the people who get everyone else into the mess try to escape the results of the mess they have created. This is what the sailors did- they were ready to leave everyone else to die to save themselves. Look around our world today, you can find people like this everywhere. From Washington DC to maybe your own living room.

However, Paul speaks up to stop the evil being perpetrated by the sailors. Proverbs 24:10-12

**6. Paul brings order once again. Acts 27:33-38**

Who do you spiritually see in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 23:5.

This is the responsibility of every Christian in this chaotic world. To bring order and nourishment. To speak truth. We are in the storm of this world- a world that is being led by people who do not know God or his ways. The ship will be destroyed but we will survive. 1 Cor. 14:33

**7. Paul escapes death once more. Acts 27:39-44**

God was faithful to Paul. God will see Paul through to the completion of his calling.

Philippians 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 48:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

There is no safer place to be than in the center of God's will. - Unknown.