

Sermon Text Discussion 4/8/2018

Acts 27:1 – 28:10: Calm in the Storm (Drew Hunter)

Overview

In this text, we again find Paul at a crisis point in his ministry life; more near death experiences. And again, we can learn from the manner in which Paul responds to suffering and extreme tension and turmoil. His calm and composed response comes from his trust in Christ.

Today's culture does not teach us how to handle conflict, but only attempts to teach us how to avoid it. A life crisis is always hard to deal with, but especially when we are not prepared for it. We can learn from Paul's example of responding with confidence through his suffering.

Paul's near death experiences: The storm, the shipwreck, and the snake attack

Quotations

"God has ordained that events will come about by our causing them." Wayne Grudem

"When storms hit our lives, we should not be surprised. God is not failing to keep his promises – he never promised us health and wealth in this life." Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) Discuss the context of Acts 27 and 28. Where was Paul heading and why? To what charges had he been found guilty? At whose request was he being sent on this journey? (Watch out for trick questions!)
- 2) Read 2 Corinthians 10:23-29. Paul suffered greatly in his ministry to the Gentiles. Find examples in Acts of Paul's response to crisis. Describe his typical response. Compare his response to yours.
- 3) We have probably all felt, at times, that life is simply not fair; that we do not deserve the situation in which we find ourselves. Describe a specific situation. What was your attitude and response? Did God teach you anything through your suffering?
- 4) Drew described three sources of Paul's confidence – he knew he belonged to God (vs 23), he knew and believed God's promises (vs 24), and he trusted in God's sovereignty over all things. Describe each and discuss how each applies to your life.
- 5) Drew references Romans 8:28, Ephesians 1:11, and Isaiah 43:2 as verses that can give us confidence to face suffering. Find and share at least one other place in Scripture that can help during a storm. What truths do you take from these verses that give you confidence?
- 6) What can you learn from Paul's example of dealing with suffering? What specific steps can you take to respond well to a current crisis? What specific steps can you take to prepare for a future crisis?