



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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We're Going to Make It!

Scripture: Acts 27

This whole chapter is taken up with an account of Paul's voyage towards Rome, when he was sent there a prisoner by Festus the governor, upon his appeal to Cæsar. Julius, a hardened Roman centurion, was assigned to guard Paul. Julius developed a respect for Paul, giving him freedom (v. 3), and later saving his life (v. 43). The beginning of the voyage was well enough; it was calm and prosperous.

Paul advised them, saying, *"I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives"* (Acts 27:10): Paul did not necessarily speak here as a prophet of God, but perhaps as an experienced traveler on the Mediterranean, having already traveled some 3,500 miles by sea. Knowing the seasons and conditions — and perhaps with supernatural wisdom — Paul advised that they not go on.

It isn't a surprise that the centurion had more respect for the opinion of the chief sailor and the owner of the ship than for Paul's opinion (v. 11). They both had much to lose if the ship didn't make it to Rome. *"But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon"* (v. 14). Paul said, "I told you so," and was reminding them that, with God's guidance, he had predicted this very problem and they would not be in this seemingly hopeless situation. Paul assured them that though they didn't listen, by the good providence of God, they should be brought safely through it, and none of them should be lost. The promise that no life would be lost was hard to believe if the ship were to be lost. It was also bad news to hear that the voyage would be a complete financial loss, with the cargo already overboard (v. 18) and the ship to be lost.

God sent an angelic messenger (v. 23) to Paul to bring good, encouraging news when all else seemed hopeless. Paul remembered that he *belonged* to God and that he *served* God. **God never forgets those who belong to Him and serve Him.** That doesn't mean everything goes easy for those who belong to God and serve Him. Paul's present calamity proved that. It does mean that God's watchful eye and active care is present even in that kind of calamity. Paul knew he would make it to Rome because God promised it (Acts 23:11).

I believe God that it will be just as it was told to me: Paul's confident words to the troubled sailors on a storm-tossed ship express the essence of what it means to put our faith in God and His Word. God said it to Paul (through an angel) and Paul said, **"I believe God"** (v.v. 23-24) This was not a fair-weather faith; he believed God in the midst of the storm, when circumstances were at their worst. Paul would say along with Job: *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him* (Job 13:15). The storm and the danger were real, but God was more real to Paul than the dreadful circumstances. Paul had a word of faith and confidence from the Lord for the frightened crew and passengers. But this word only benefited those who *believed* it.

Some shipmen (sailors) seek to escape from the ship. *"Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, **Except** these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved"* (v. 31). There were two hundred threescore and sixteen souls (276) on the ship (v. 37). Paul had a word of faith and confidence from the Lord for the frightened crew and passengers. But this word only benefited those who believed it. God has scores of promises of His comfort and care for us in desperate times, but they only benefit us if we believe them. The ship runs aground and breaks apart (v. 41). Leaving the ship and coming safely to shore (vv. 43-44). **God's word never fails!**

The Bible contains many scriptures that offer hope, perseverance, God's providence, encouragement and assurance that, with faith and trust in God, we can overcome challenges and reach a place of peace and victory and fulfill His purpose for our lives (Psalm 23:4; 46:1; Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 29:11; James 1:12; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:28; Isaiah 41:10).

We're Going to Make It by Rev. Timothy Wright says, "I know somehow, I know someday, We're gonna make it, No matter what the test, Whatever comes our way, We're going make it, With Jesus on our side, Things will work out fine, We're gonna make it.

May you be encouraged with the Word of God and believe that you are going to make it!