



Storms, Providence, and Responsibility

(Sailing Along in The Fulness of The Blessing of Christ)

9/20/20

Romans 15:20 ...I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation;

²¹ but as it is written, "They who had no news of Him shall see, And they who have not heard shall understand."

²² For this reason I have often been hindered from coming to you;

²³ but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you

²⁴ whenever I go to Spain-- for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while--

²⁵ but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

²⁷ Yes, they were pleased *to do so*, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

²⁸ Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain.

²⁹ And **I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fulness of the blessing of Christ.**

³⁰ Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,

³¹ that I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea, and *that* my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints;

³² so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find *refreshing* rest in your company.

³³ Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Acts 27:1 And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius.

² And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica.

³ And the next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care.

⁴ And from there we put out to sea and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because the winds were contrary.

⁵ And when we had sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.

⁶ And there the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it.

⁷ And when we had sailed slowly for a good many days, and with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus, since the wind did not permit us *to go* farther, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone;

⁸ and with difficulty sailing past it we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

⁹ And when considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul *began* to admonish them,

¹⁰ and said to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be *attended* with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."

¹¹ But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship, than by what was being said by Paul.

¹² And because the harbor was not suitable for wintering, the majority reached a decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing southwest and northwest, and spend the winter *there*.

¹³ And when a moderate south wind came up, supposing that they had gained their purpose, they weighed anchor and *began* sailing along Crete, close *inshore*.

¹⁴ But before very long there rushed down from the land a violent wind, called Euraquilo;

¹⁵ and when the ship was caught *in it*, and could not face the wind, we gave way *to it*, and let ourselves be driven along.

¹⁶ And running under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, we were scarcely able to get the *ship's* boat under control.

¹⁷ And after they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and fearing that they might run aground on *the shallows* of Syrtis, they let down the sea anchor, and so let themselves be driven along.

¹⁸ The next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo;

¹⁹ and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

²⁰ And since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing *us*, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.

²¹ And when they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete, and incurred this damage and loss.

²² "And yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there shall be no loss of life among you, but *only* of the ship.

²³ "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me,

²⁴ saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'

²⁵ "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.

²⁶ "But we must run aground on a certain island."

²⁷ But when the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors *began* to surmise that they were approaching some land.

²⁸ And they took soundings, and found *it to be* twenty fathoms; and a little farther on they took another sounding and found *it to be* fifteen fathoms.

²⁹ And fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and wished for daybreak.

³⁰ And as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship, and had let down the *ship's* boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow,

³¹ Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved."

³² Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the *ship's* boat, and let it fall away.

³³ And until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing.

³⁴ "Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation; for not a hair from the head of any of you shall perish."

³⁵ And having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all; and he broke it and began to eat.

³⁶ And all of them were encouraged, and they themselves also took food.

³⁷ And all of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons.

³⁸ And when they had eaten enough, they *began* to lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.

³⁹ And when day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a certain bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could.

⁴⁰ And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders, and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach.

⁴¹ But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern *began* to be broken up by the force *of the waves*.

⁴² And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, that none *of them* should swim away and escape;

⁴³ but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land,

⁴⁴ and the rest *should follow*, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And thus it happened that they all were brought safely to land.

Acts 28:1 And when they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.

² And the natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all.

³ 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.

⁴ And when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they *began* saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live."

⁵ However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.

⁶ But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and *began* to say that he was a god.