

ABIDE IN THE SHIP

Paul Saves the Sailors

Message: Acts 27:31

All Roads Lead to Rome

Today we are heavily influenced by Rome. Rome was responsible for the spread of the Latin Language, which has formed the basis for Western languages, such as English. Roman influences in modern society can also be seen in infrastructure systems. Roman roads used three levels of substructure beneath the paving stones, and an uplift of the center of the road, allowing rainwater to drain off (highway). They used numbered signposts every Roman mile, which indicated such things as the distance to the next town (mile marker). They also had extensive networks of underground lead pipe, supplying clean water. They utilized the concepts of parks, public libraries, and plazas. Consequently, a Roman ship was large and heavy vessel built for both war and transport. Rome expanding borders demanded that they get as much cargo as possible on these ships for commerce reasons. They are huge, I guess they would have to be in order to transport so many things and withstand the storms out there. Now, imagine that ship being Jesus Christ, He is so big that nothing else can be carried aboard Him. The second we accept Him as our Savior we enter His ship, we become contained and protected within His walls. Now, when the storms of life try to shipwreck us we can be confident that we will be able to withstand them. However, at times, even the strongest Christian can weaken and lose sight of Him. When we get to that point it is time to call Him and get back on the ship. "Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven." - Psalm 107:28-30.

I've Got confidence – Andrae Crouch

When Paul headed back to Jerusalem he had no idea what would become of him, he heard rumors, people warned him to stay away before he got killed, he got arrested, and even some of the Jews plotted to kill him. Even Phillip tried to stop him from going in which Paul retorted "*What mean you to weep and break mine heart? I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.* Acts 21:13. Depressed and nervous at times, he knew he could count on was that he knew God to be with him. Paul had confidence!...And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them: And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds. Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar." - Acts 26:21-23,30-32. Paul, a prisoner, boarded Roman ship headed for Rome along with 275 other men. As they were sailing a storm was brewing, Paul warned them not to continue in the direction that they were going, but they refused to listen and headed right for it. ". Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul." - Acts 27:9-11. For 14 days Paul and the other men were in the middle of a hurricane, and then Paul spoke up. "Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved... And when it was day, they knew not the land. They remained in the ship and not one soul was lost. - Acts 27:31,39,42-44.

Better Than God

Often we think to be better than God through our sinful actions. It's hard to kick against the pricks" Acts 26:14. The Holy Spirit cautions us about storms that are steeping in our own lives, often we overlook those forewarnings and it is only when we are in the middle of a hurricane that we recognize we should have listened. The magnificent thing about God is He will help us out of the storm. He will "throw our sins into the sea of forgetfulness". Micah 7:19. Have confidence in God. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." - James 4:8-10.



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