



Seeing the Future?

By Taylor Braswell on July 4, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 27

While Paul is on his way to Rome to give his defense before Caesar, he finds himself aboard a ship headed out to sea during a storm. Paul knew the ship should not have gone out to sea during this time of the year, and in verse 10 he warns the crew, *"Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives"* (Acts 27:10). Although Paul warned everyone, they did not listen to him and kept sailing.

As Christians, we can tell the future (before you label me a heretic, please keep reading). No, we cannot know if a storm will come, but we know that God has designed us to live a certain way and we know that living outside of God's design leads to death. We know that if we do not warn others, their lives are headed for destruction. Notice Paul had the courage to speak up and warn others! Paul probably knew his opinion was not valued as much as others' on the ship, but he spoke up anyway. All of us know people who are living in a way that is hurting themselves and others. If we claim to love and care about people made in the image of God, we will speak up and warn them that what they are doing leads to destruction.

In verses 13 to 26, we find out that Paul was right! Paul waited until they had been in the storm for three days and had begun throwing things off the ship to speak up again. (Guess who else waited three days when all hope seemed lost? Boom, Jesus.) *"Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss"* (Acts 27:21). Paul was not rubbing it in their faces that he was right, he was helping them understand that there was a real reason he had warned them. Paul encourages the crew to take heart and tells them that an angel of the Lord told him not to be afraid! Paul tells the crew that God promised him that they would live. Just like Paul, we must warn others of the coming destruction they face if they do not put their faith in Christ. Our authority is from God, and we can take heart that Jesus offers eternal life!

PRAYER: God, give me the strength and boldness to warn people around me about the future. Help me speak to people about Christ with authority and confidence. Thank You that I do not have to be afraid because I have eternal life.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 28

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