

# THE VOYAGE OF LIFE

## Int.

1. Aim: To make an analogy between the journey of Paul and our life.
2. Jas. 4:14 "What is your life?"
  - a. Life is a great and complex thing
  - b. Let us consider "life as a voyage."
  - c. Compare the journey of Paul from Caesarea to Rome to our journey from Earth to Heaven
3. Paul's journey was on a ship. He referred to travel on a ship in a figurative sense.
  - a. 1 Tim. 1:19 "Holding faith, and a good conscience, which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck."
  - b. Heb. 6:19 "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast,..."
4. The Voyage of Life Acts 27 & 28

## Discussion

### I. PAUL'S JOURNEY - Acts 27 & 28

#### A. Appeal to Caesar

1. Paul had been jailed in Jerusalem
2. He was taken to Caesarea to save his life
3. Appealed to Caesar so he must be taken to Rome.

#### B. Julius the centurion

1. Man in charge of delivering Paul to Rome
2. Luke and Aristarchus also on the journey
3. Ship of Adramyttium.

### C. To Myra

1. Fall of year
2. Short stop at Sidon
3. North of Cyprus
4. Winds were contrary
5. To Myra - changed to a merchant ship from Alexandria going to Italy.

### D. Rough Sailing to Fair Havens

1. Slow sailing - strong contrary winds
2. Driven Southward about 130 miles - South side of Crete
3. "Fair Havens" - put in to port
4. Paul advised to stay Acts 27:10 "And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives."
5. Master of the ship felt Phoenix, about 75 miles West, was better for wintering.
6. Julius listened to owner not Paul.

### E. Storm at Sea

1. South wind blew - they set sail
2. Soon a Typhoon bore down upon them
3. Brought life boats up on the deck - Cables to undergird-strengthen the ship
4. Lowered main sail and let the boat be driven by the storm
5. Feared quicksand of Northern Africa
6. Lightened ship by throwing cargo and tackling overboard
7. Saw neither sun or moon for many days and gave up all hope!

#### F. Paul Speaks

1. Reminded them of his advice
2. Comforts them - Acts 27:22-26

#### G. The Shipwreck

1. On the 14th day about midnight they approached land
2. Let down anchors and waited for day!
3. Paul encouraged all to eat for they had not eaten for days
4. Day-break revealed they were at the entrance of bay on some Island.
5. Tried to bring ship to shore - but ran aground and it was being broken by the waves
6. Soldiers advised killing prisoners -- but Julius spared them
7. All 276 people on board the ship made it safely to shore

#### H. Island of Malta

1. Natives built a fire - Viper bit Paul - but he was not harmed
2. 3 months later they left the island

#### I. Journey to Rome

1. The weather was favorable again - smooth sailing
2. While approaching Rome brethren came to meet them
3. Acts 28:15 "And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage."
4. They finally had a safe arrival in Rome .

## II. LIFE COMPARED TO A JOURNEY

- A. A plan was made
1. Travel plans
    - a. Stay close to the shore
    - b. This route traveled for same purpose by seaman today
  
  2. Plan for life
    - a. Voyage is taken in the church
    - b. Church is way from earth to heaven - Acts 2:47
  
  3. A failure to plan
    - a. Many will not be in heaven because they made no plans to go.
    - b. A vessel left to drift is sure to wreck and ruin
    - c. Phil. 3:13-14 "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
  
  4. "Don't give up the ship"
    - a. Some were about to flee the ship and Paul said "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." Acts 27:31
    - b. We must stay in the church for here is where all spiritual blessings are found - Eph. 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"

## B. Adverse Winds

1. Soon met "contrary winds"
2. We encounter adverse winds -- 1 Pet. 4:12 "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:"
3. These winds can make shipwreck of our faith:
  - a. False theories of science
  - b. Desire for popularity
  - c. Traditions and hobbies of men - liberalism
  - d. Discouragement

## C. THE ADVERSE WINDS

1. False theories of science
  - a. Evolution taught to destroy faith in God and his word
  - b. Theory that man evolved from lower life is contrary to Bible
  - c. Evolutionists are afraid of a program called "Intelligent Design"
  - d. 1 Tim. 6:20 "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:"
  - e. "...contradictions of what is falsely called Knowledge" NKJV
  - f. Evolution is a lie! it is a false theory of science!
2. Desire for popularity
  - a. Many people have met the winds of popularity and fell
  - b. They make shipwreck of their faith
  - c. 2 Tim. 4:10 - like Demas

### 3. Tradition and hobbies - liberalism or anti-ism

- a. Easy to put tradition or hobby above God's word
- b. Col. 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."
- c. Mt. 15:6 "And honour not his father or his mother, [he shall be free]. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."
- d. Due to a lack of knowledge of the truth
- e. Neither extreme - Deut. 5:32

### 4. Discouragement

- a. Gal. 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
  - (1) Weary = To be weak, fail in heart, faint
  - (2) Faint = to relax, "Do no lose heart" NKJV
- b. Problems and heartaches can discourage us
- c. Keep our eye on the goal of life - Heaven
- d. Scriptures:
  - (1) Deut. 31:6-7 "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 7. And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all I srael, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it."

- (2) Deut. 31:23 "And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee."
- (3) Josh. 1:6-9 "Be strong and of a good courage:..." "Courageous"
- (4) Josh 10:25 "And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the Lord do to all your enemies against whom ye fight."
- (a) Dismayed = afraid, discourage, scare
- (b) Strong = be alert mentally, establish
- (5) 1 Chron. 28:20 "And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."
- (6) Ps. 27:14 "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."
- (7) Ps. 31:24 "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

e. The sea of life will have winds which we must learn to overcome - 1 Pet. 5:8-9

#### D. Sudden Storm

1. Came suddenly
  - a. Decided to leave "fair havens"
  - b. Hardly started when the storm came

2. Christians live in an uncertain world
  - a. It strikes suddenly and we are unprepared
  - b. We live daily with the possibility of a crisis in our life
  - c. Jas. 4:14-15 "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

#### E. Lighten the Ship

1. Threw cargo overboard
  - a. When the wind blew soft and the sea was calm they prized their ship and the cargo
  - b. But when their lives are threatened they dispose of it fast
2. We get rid of certain things in times of crisis
  - a. We over-value such temporal things as wealth, worldly wisdom, social prestige
  - b. A crisis helps us to see their small value
  - c. 1 Tim. 6:6-10 "But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

- d. The scriptures teach that we should throw off certain things in order to save our soul:
- (1) Mt. 5:29-30 right eye, right hand, pluck or cut off
  - (2) Col. 3:8-9 Put off - anger, wrath, malice
  - (3) II Tim. 2:4 - no man that is in war entangleth himself with the affairs of this life
- e. Heb. 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Life is like a voyage or trip -- we are going to Eternity
2. There are two final destinies for the soul - Heaven or Hell
3. Mt. 7:13-14
  - a. Travel the narrow-way that leads to life eternal
  - b. Otherwise the broad way will lead to destruction
4. Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."