



The Book of Acts

Living Holy in the Family of God

Volume 6

Chapters 26-28

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Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



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1

Introduction

As the Book of Acts closes, Paul has been in Caesarea for more than two years defending himself against the charges of the Jews. Governor Felix heard the case first, but left Paul under custody in Caesarea for two years. Governor Festus succeeded Felix and, wanting to do the Jews a favor, urged Paul to return to Jerusalem to be tried by the religious Council there. Those same Jews had already tried to kill him more than once, prompting the Roman commander to deposit Paul in Caesarea for safekeeping and trial. Paul then appealed to Rome, exercising his legal right as a Roman citizen.

Paul then traveled to Rome, but that sea voyage ran into severe problems with a huge storm. Poor decisions lead the captain and they pilot to venture unwittingly into a winter storm of huge proportions. The ship was thrown off course and driven before the storm for more than 14 days. Paul received a revelation from an angel that the ship would be lost, but all souls saved from immediate death. As prophesied, the ship ran aground at Malta and the ship was lost, but every soul on board made it safely the land. Paul's data and Malta, performing miracles and spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ there until further passage to Rome could be arranged.

In time Paul continued his journey to Rome and met with several groups of brethren after he landed in Italy. Eventually he arrived in Rome and remained under house arrest, but free to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Scriptures to all his visitors.

And custody for two years The Book of Acts portrays the joining of Jews and Gentiles and people from all nations into the one unified body of Christ. That transition began at Pentecost and the history of that new theology characterizes the Book of Acts. As the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread through the disciples and apostles, the religious authorities began to persecute the church.

As the persecution against the saints increased, they fled Jerusalem and Judea and relocated to many places. They proclaimed their faith where they went and the Lord Jesus continued to build His church in many diverse places and cultures. God used many people to build His church and the work of those people fills the pages of Acts. They had wonderful ministries and praised God as they prospered in Christ during times of persecution from governments, religious authorities and Jewish groups opposed to Jesus, the Savior of the World.

Acts closes with an account of Paul going to stand before Caesar on appeal from the false charges brought against him by the Jews of Jerusalem. Paul continues his ministry and we learn about how the apostles ministered far and wide. Peter ministered to the Jews and Paul became the teacher and apostle to the Gentiles.

Acts shines from cover to cover with the glory of God at work through the early church. He raised up faithful people to spread His loving message to many lands, foreign and domestic. Jesus, as prophesied, continues to build His church to this day. The Holy Spirit continues to play a leading role in leading men to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to many places. God the Father continues to love the world and reveal Jesus Christ to people of different lands, tongues, tribes and nations.

The Book of Acts provides a spiritual history of the beginnings of the Church of Jesus Christ. Luke, the beloved physician, investigated matters carefully and wrote a brief history of how the apostles continued the ministry of the Lord Jesus. After Jesus ascended into heaven, they waited in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them and then they would be witnesses of Jesus to the whole world, beginning in Jerusalem.

The apostles selected a man named Matthias to serve as an apostle. Judas Iscariot had held the office of apostle, but he died a broken man destined for eternal punishment for his unbelief in Jesus. The Holy Spirit chose Matthias to fill the ministry and apostleship of Judas Iscariot. Matthias had been with the other apostles and with Jesus since the baptism of John and through the ascension of Jesus. He was an eyewitness of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles like a rushing wind, and tongues of fire. He filled the apostles and they spoke in foreign languages known by the members of the crowd standing around them.

Peter stood up and began proclaimed Christ to the crowd. He started by quoting the Old Testament and showing how the things happening that day fulfilled the prophecy of Joel. Three thousand souls were added to the church that day. Multitudes more followed day by day. The early church kept feeling a sense of awe as many signs and wonders were taking place through the apostles.

The congregation began selling their property and sharing all things. The needs of all the members of the congregation were being met. They were continuing in the temple and from house to house. They were devoting themselves to the apostle's teaching and to fellowship and to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Paul visited Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila. Paul left them there and he entered the synagogue. Paul often went to the synagogue first and proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them and reasoned with them. The folks in the Ephesian synagogue asked him to stay for a while longer, but he did not consent. As he left, he told them if God wills, he would return.

Apollos also came to Ephesus after Paul left. He proclaimed Christ and was mighty in the Scriptures, but he was only acquainted with the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained the way of God to him more fully. Apollos then left for Achaia.

Paul came to Ephesus and found some disciples. Paul asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit. They replied that they did not even know whether there is a Holy Spirit. They had only been baptized into the baptism of John. Paul then explained that John baptized with the baptism of repentance, pointing people to believe in Jesus who was coming after John. Upon hearing this news, they were immediately baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesied. They were in all about twelve men.

Paul continued boldly speaking in the synagogue about Christ for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. Some of those Jews became hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the way. Therefore, Paul withdrew from them and took the disciples to the school of Tyrannus, where he reasoned daily. He continued there for two years. All who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul. Some Jewish exorcists, the seven sons of Sceva, tried to name use the Name of the Lord Jesus over an evil spirit, saying that they adjured the evil spirit in the name of Jesus whom Paul preached. The evil spirit replied that he recognized Jesus, and he knew about Paul, but he did not know them. The evil spirit leapt upon them and subdued all of them and overpowered them. They fled out of the house naked and wounded. Everyone, including Jews and Gentiles, who lived in Ephesus learned what happened. Fear fell upon them and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ was being magnified. Many believed and came to Jesus, confessing and disclosing their evil practices. Some brought their books they used in their practice of magic and burned them in the sight of everyone. They counted up the price of those books and found it to be 50,000 pieces of silver. So, the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing. Paul then intended to leave.

About that time a man named Demetrius, a silversmith making silver shrines of Artemis, gathered together the workmen of similar trade and told them their livelihoods were in danger. Demetrius said that Paul turned away not only many people in Ephesus, but also many people in Asia saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all. Demetrius stirred up the crowd saying that their trade in the Temple of the great goddess Artemis would be regarded as worthless and dethrone her from her magnificence. The crowd was enraged and the city filled with confusion. They rushed together to the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. Paul arrived, but the disciples would not allow him to speak in the assembly. Finally, the town clerk calmed them down and dismissed the assembly. Paul then left for Macedonia.

After his travels through Macedonia, Paul returned to the seaport of Miletus, from where he called the Ephesian elders to him. He recounted his time with them and told them he was on his way to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit solemnly testified to him in every city that bonds and afflictions awaited. Even so, he wanted to finish his course in the ministry which he

received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders that they would no longer see his face. He charged them to be on guard for themselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit had made them overseers. They must shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His blood. Paul commanded them to be on guard for themselves and for all the flock, because after his departure savage wolves would come in among them, not sparing the flock. Furthermore, evil men would arise in the Ephesian assembly, speaking perverted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Paul reminded them that for three years he did not cease to admonish them with tears. After commending them to the grace of God, he knelt down and prayed with them all. They began to weep and embrace Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, grieving because of the word he had spoken to them indicating they would not see his face again. They accompanied him to the ship and he left.

HALLELUJAH !

2

Agrippa

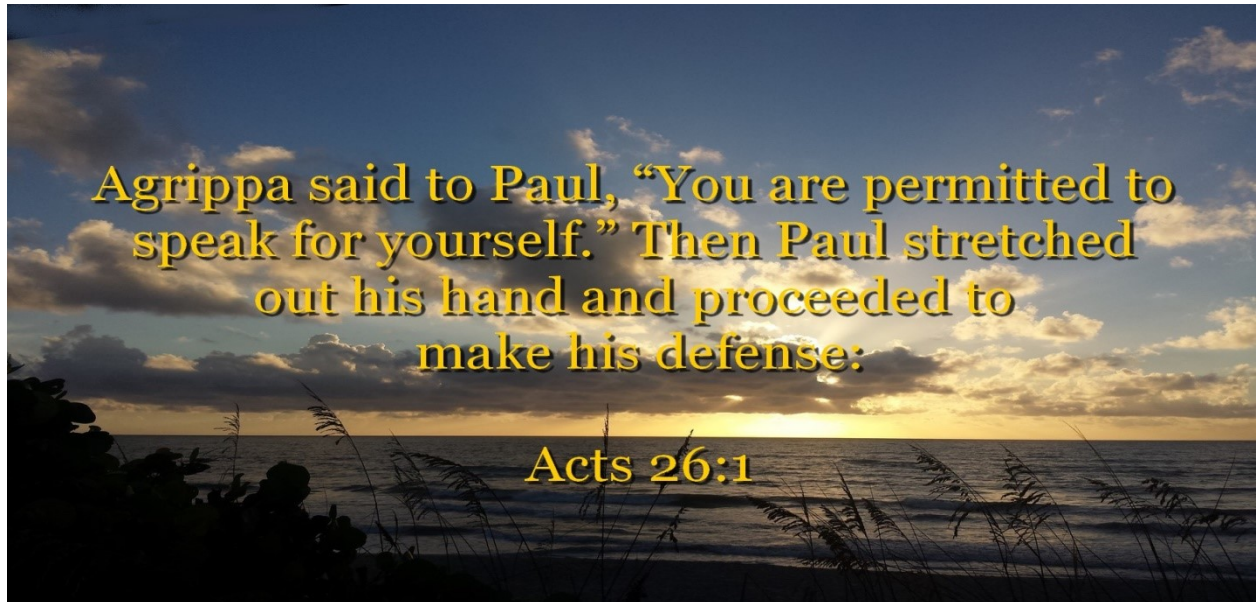
King Agrippa arrived at Caesarea not long after Festus became the new governor. Festus had already granted the appeal of Paul to Rome, but had nothing to write Caesar about the charges against Paul. He asked King Agrippa to hear Paul and the King readily agreed. Paul made his defense, presenting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and explaining his conversion on the Damascus Road. Paul proclaimed he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. He further declared that the Law of Moses and the prophets described that Christ was going to suffer and then be raised from the dead.

Festus interrupted Paul saying that he was out of his mind, but King Agrippa said that in a short time Paul would persuade him to become a Christian. Paul replied that he would that all men would become like him as a Christian, but without the chains. Everyone concluded that Paula had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 901

Permitted Today



What did Agrippa say to Paul? Agrippa said that Paul was permitted to speak for himself.

Paul began making his defense by stretching out his hand, just like he had done on the stairs in Jerusalem as he addressed the Jewish crowd. Paul had made his defense to these charges more than once.

Festus had laid out Paul's case to King Agrippa, hoping to learn something new about the charges against Paul. King Agrippa wanted to hear Paul as quickly as possible. Therefore, Festus arranged a meeting for the next day.

King Agrippa and the commanders, influential people of Caesarea and others came to hear Paul. King Agrippa and his wife Bernice entered the auditorium with great pomp, befitting a king.

God had assembled yet another large crowd of important dignitaries to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from the lips of Paul. Paul had been held in custody for more than two years in Caesarea, but during that time he

had had numerous conversations with Felix and others. Just because Paul was held in prison did not mean that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was imprisoned.

Proceeded

1. **Agrippa**. How did Paul begin his defense? He stretched out his hand before he started speaking.

2. **Paul**. Paul made his defense before and now was doing it for the benefit of King Agrippa.

3. **Permitted**. Agrippa wanted Paul to know that he was permitted to speak in his own defense.

4. **Speak**. Paul, with the help of the Holy Spirit, always made a very sound defense.

5. **Hand**. Paul had stretched out his hand similarly when he was speaking to the Jews in Jerusalem to gain attention.

6. **Make**. Living holy in the family of God means that God expects all of us to be ready to make a defense of the faith which is within us.

7. **Defense**. We rejoice today because God helps us make a defense and gives us the right words to say as we trust Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul talking with Agrippa.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus had assembled all these dignitaries to hear Paul present the good news of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming Christ as God gives us opportunities.**

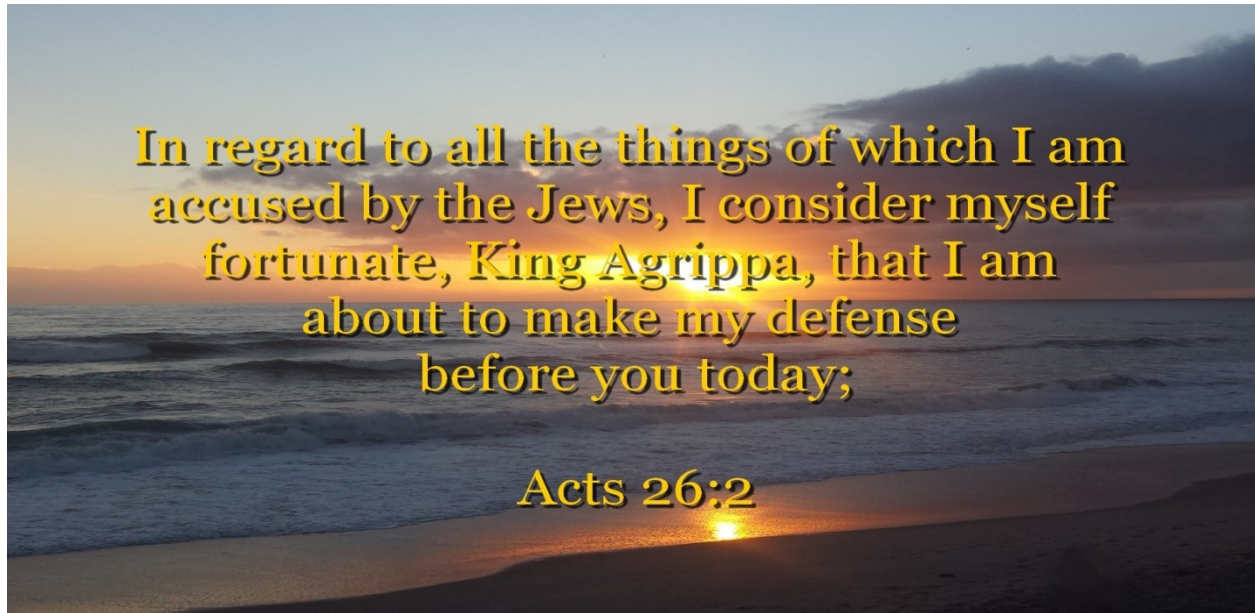
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul was held in custody for years so that he would have opportunities to speak to men in authority. Will you live holy in the family of God today by biding your time carefully so that you will be ready to speak about Jesus as opportunities arise?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 902

Accused Today



How did Paul begin his defense? Paul expressed his gratitude that King Agrippa would hear his defense.

Paul said he considered himself fortunate that King Agrippa would hear him. By making his defense before Agrippa, Paul knew that Agrippa would understand the sharp divide between Pharisees and Sadducees. Just as Paul had pled before, he was on trial for the resurrection.

Agrippa would also understand the religious nature of the charges against Paul. As Paul had declared previously, he had no intention of violating the Law or the Prophets but believed in them. While some of the Jews charged him with breaking the Law of Moses and trying to defile the Temple, they could not prove those charges and the key witnesses were absent.

Paul delighted in sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He proclaimed Christ in Europe and Asia to many people in many places. The Lord Jesus had appeared to Paul and told him that he would be His witness

and eventually go to Rome. Paul fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus by standing before Agrippa and all the other dignitaries there proclaiming Christ to them.

Fortunate

1. **Things**. Why did Paul consider himself fortunate? He considered himself fortunate because Agrippa knew the customs of the Jews.

2. **I**. Paul used the first person and described himself as I am accused.

3. **Accused**. The Jews accused Paul of many different crimes, but Festus concluded that all those crimes were religious in nature.

4. **Jews**. The Jews accused Paul more out of animosity towards him rather than to prove facts.

5. **Fortunate**. Paul considered himself fortunate to make his defense before Agrippa because Agrippa possessed superior knowledge of Jewish customs.

6. **Agrippa**. Living holy in the family of God means that Agrippa asked to hear Paul, but God had arranged a divine appointment for Agrippa and the other dignitaries to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Today**. We rejoice today because Paul boldly proclaimed his defense, which also presented Jesus the risen Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God not only arranged the auditorium for Paul, but he also brought a king to hear Paul's defense.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God creates appointments for us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the people He brings into our lives who need to know Jesus.**

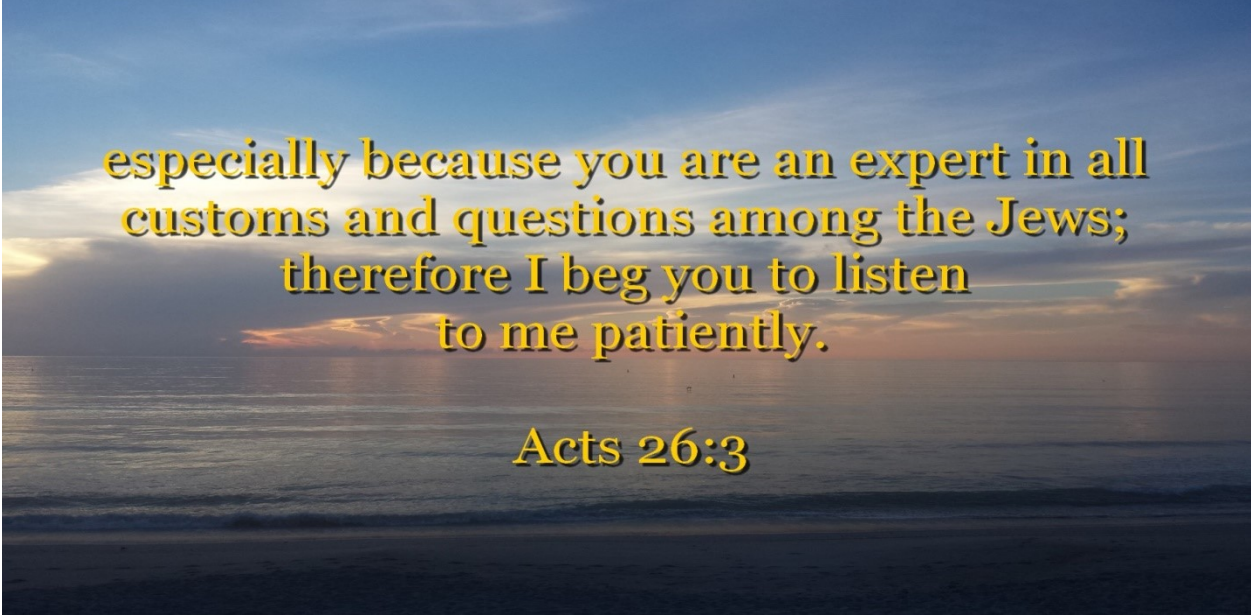
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul talking to Agrippa about Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His plans to have Paul held in custody so that he would proclaim Jesus to King Agrippa and his wife and the influential people of Caesarea?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 903

Expert Today



especially because you are an expert in all
customs and questions among the Jews;
therefore I beg you to listen
to me patiently.

Acts 26:3

What did Paul know about King Agrippa? Paul knew that King Agrippa was an expert in all customs and questions among the Jews.

Paul understood what Festus was after. Festus needed something to write to Rome about the charges against Paul. Festus was hoping that King Agrippa could help him fill in the blanks on the charging document. With that in mind, Paul crafted his defense very carefully.

Paul remained fairly certain that if he could convince Agrippa about the truth of his defense, that would go a long way towards showing that no serious charges were pending against Paul, but only religious charges that were unfounded. Paul begged for Agrippa to be patient with him as he presented his defense.

Because Agrippa was an expert on the customs and questions of the Jews, Paul could demonstrate that he was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. He carefully observed ceremonial duties before he entered the Temple, including cleansing himself. Paul had no intention of bringing a Gentile into the Temple and such charges were utterly false.

Listen

1. **Especialy**. Why was Paul especially happy to talk to Agrippa? He was especially happy to talk to Agrippa because Agrippa was an expert on Jewish customs and questions.
2. **Expert**. Because Agrippa was an expert, Paul could explain things more carefully and deeply to him.
3. **Customs**. The customs of the Jews rested upon both Scripture and their traditions.
4. **Questions**. Agrippa was adept at answering questions about the Jews.
5. **Jews**. Both Paul and Agrippa were Jews, but spiritually they shared nothing in common.
6. **Beg**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul said to Agrippa, “I beg you to listen to me patiently.”
7. **Patiently**. We rejoice today because Paul could be very succinct, but he still needed Agrippa to listen patiently to his defense and proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that sometimes experts come our way.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by judiciously explaining our defense and our faith.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God draws governors and kings to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

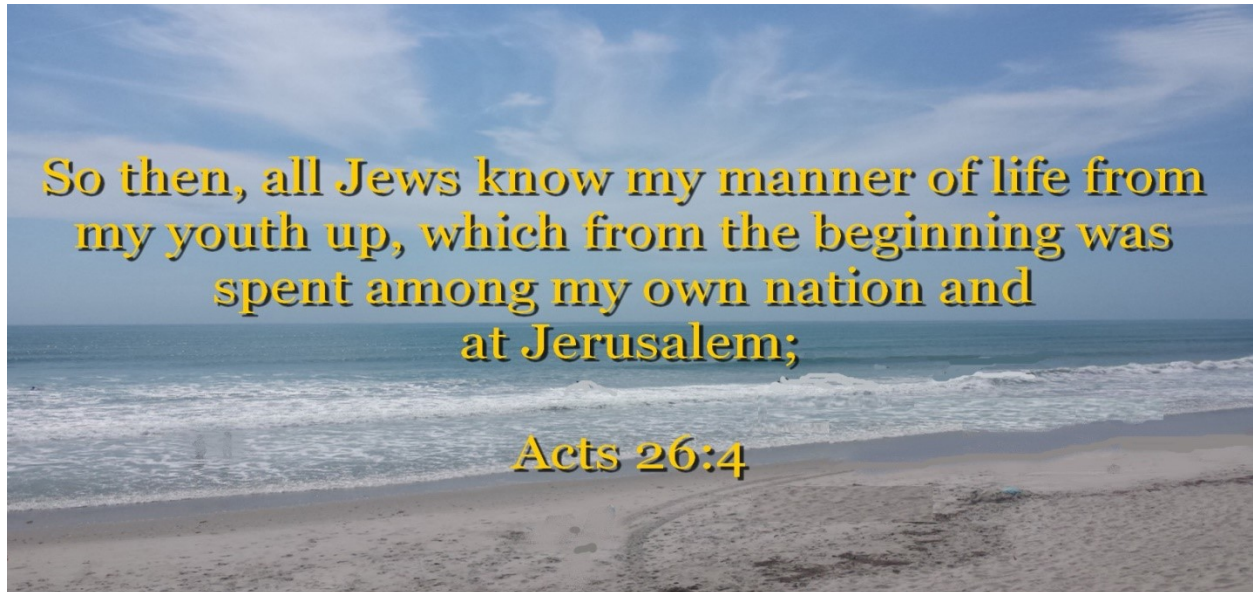
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that kings and governors all over the world hear prisoners speak about the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being ready to give an account to anyone who asks about the hope in Jesus Christ you have within you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 904

Jews Today



Why did Paul recount his early years? Paul showed that from his youth up he lived in Jerusalem as a Jew.

Paul laid a beautiful foundation for his defense that he was thoroughly Jewish and not a lawbreaker. Paul believed in the Law and the Prophets. Paul wanted Agrippa to know that he was raised in Jerusalem.

Although Paul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, he was raised as a Jew in Jerusalem. All the Jews knew from his manner of life from his youth up that he spent his time among his own nation in Jerusalem. Paul was not some Hellenistic Jew that was raised outside of Jerusalem and had little regard for Jewish customs and the Jewish Law. In fact, just the opposite was true.

Paul also showed that he was not an incidental Jew. He was a zealous Jew living among his countrymen in Jerusalem. Paul also said that all the Jews knew what he was like. He was well known to the chief priest and the leaders of the Jews. Paul was not an outsider trying to break the customs and laws of the Jews, but a member of the Pharisees, and a Pharisee of the Pharisees.

Know

1. **All**. What did everyone know about Paul? All the Jews knew about Paul's upbringing in Jerusalem.

2. **Jews**. Although the Jews accused Paul of breaking the Law and the customs of the Jews, those same accusers knew that Paul grew up as a Jew right before their eyes.

3. **Know**. Paul emphasized that they had personal knowledge of him growing up in Jerusalem.

4. **Life**. His whole manner of life revolved around being a devoted follower of God.

5. **Spent**. He spent his time among the Jews in Jerusalem, not in some distant province.

6. **Nation**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul's youth was spent in Jerusalem living among the people of his own nation.

7. **Jerusalem**. We rejoice today because Paul knew Jerusalem and the people of Jerusalem certainly knew Paul.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by reminding our accusers of what they already know, but want to forget, because it makes them look like liars.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by providing details about our lives that support our testimony for Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus was a Jewish Savior and Israel remains His chosen people.**

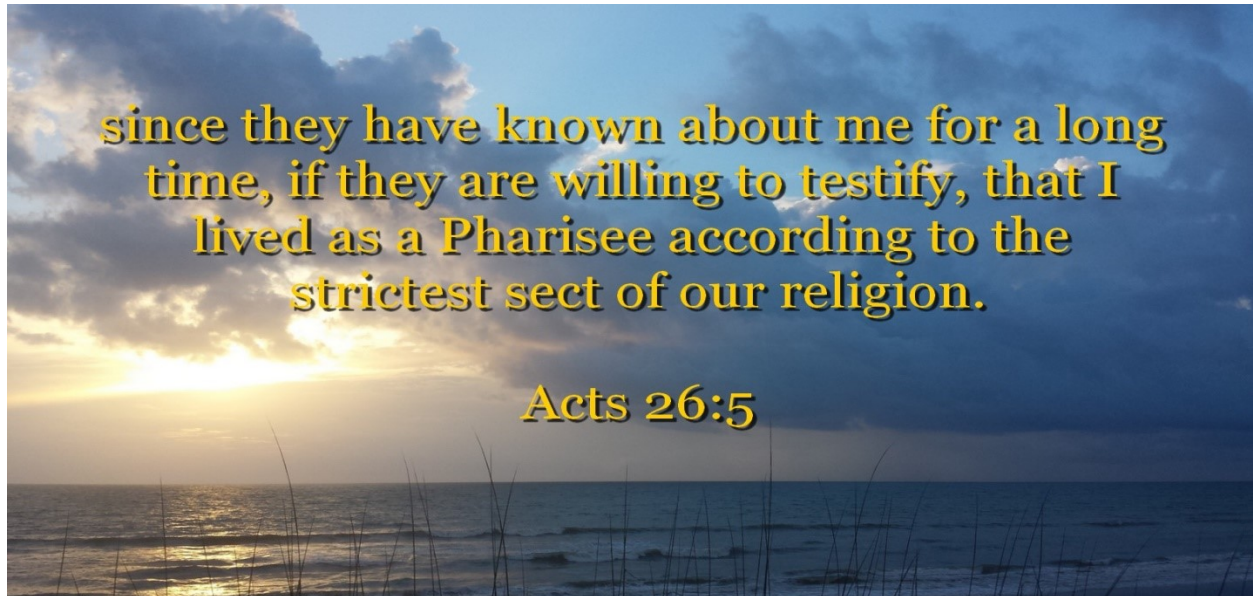
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising Jesus that He took Paul from Jerusalem and saved him from his sins, only to return him to Jerusalem to be rejected by his nation just as they had rejected Jesus before him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the testimony of Paul focusing upon his youth in Jerusalem and proving that his accusers knew him very well?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 905

Testify Today



Why did Paul emphasize that he was a Pharisee? Because the witnesses would have to confirm such testimony, if they were willing to tell the truth.

Many of the rulers of the Jews were Sadducees. They rejected the resurrection and the afterlife. The Pharisees affirmed the resurrection and the presence of spirits and the afterlife. Therefore, when Paul claimed that he was a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion, he offered strong proof that he was not breaking the Law or the customs of the Jews.

Paul declared that everyone knew that he was a Pharisee and a Jew who followed the strictest interpretations of the Law. He was well known to the Pharisees and the Sadducees at Jerusalem.

By elucidating his background, Paul was showing Agrippa that he was thoroughly Jewish and a committed Jew at that. If Agrippa had any doubts about the sincerity of Paul's faith, Paul had just gone a long way to showing Agrippa that he followed the Pharisees. In fact, Paul's father was also a Pharisee. Agrippa knew at that point that Paul would be banking his defense

upon being a Pharisee who believed and proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pharisee

1. **Known**. How long had the Jews known about Paul? They had known about Paul all along.

2. **Me**. Paul said the Jews knew me and my entire manner of life from my youth up.

3. **Long**. They knew Paul for a long time.

4. **Testify**. If the Jews were willing to testify about what they knew about Paul, then all the religious issues would become much clearer.

5. **Pharisee**. They knew that Paul lived among them in Jerusalem as a Pharisee.

6. **Strictest**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul wanted everyone to know that he lived according to the strictest sect of Judaism.

7. **Religion**. We rejoice today because Paul told Agrippa that he lived among the Jews as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of their religion, but the Jews were not willing to admit what they knew about Paul and his upbringing and his manner of life as a Pharisee.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul talking about his upbringing with Agrippa.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by letting others know that some people accusing us know us very well, but hide their knowledge of us to accuse us of things that are not true.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by exposing the knowledge of people who accuse us, so that their motives may become very clear.**

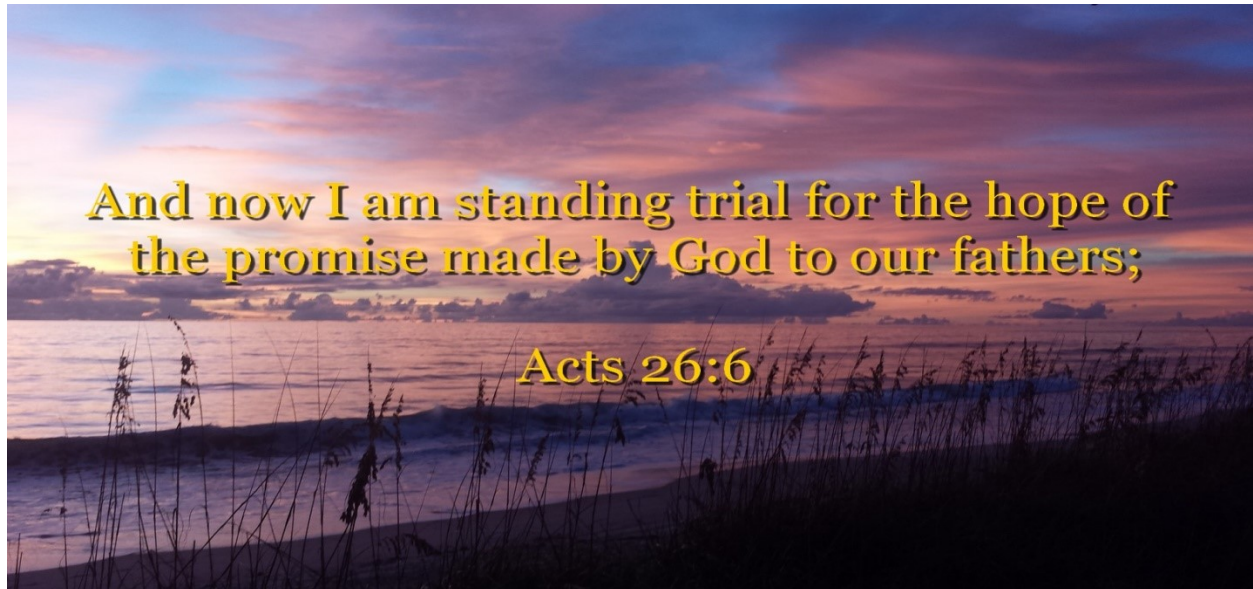
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul exposing the Jews now accusing him, but never mentioning that they had known Paul for years. Will you live holy in the family of God today by exposing the truth about people who accuse you falsely?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 906

Promise Today



Why was Paul on trial? Paul said he was on trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers.

The Jews accused Paul of denying the Jewish customs and the Law of Moses. In fact, Paul made his defense based upon the promises of God to the people of Israel. Paul said that God made promises to the fathers of Israel. Paul made it very personal by referring to those men as “our fathers.”

Paul beautifully wove his own life and the life of Israel. He believed in the Law and the Prophets. He recognized the fathers of Israel as his fathers. In other words, Paul considered himself a descendent of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Paul was also laying the foundation for the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth after He died at the hands of the Jews and Romans. Being a Pharisee himself, Paul believed in the resurrection. Please recall that Paul was counting upon the expert knowledge of King Agrippa concerning all Jewish customs and matters. Agrippa would have understood the distinction

between Sadducees and Pharisees. Paul was clearly identifying himself as a Pharisee who believed in the resurrection.

Fathers

1. **I.** How did Paul describe his trial? Paul described himself as standing trial for the hope of the promise of God.

2. **Standing**. Paul said he was standing trial because of his religious beliefs.

3. **Trial**. The trial in a Roman court had to do with Jewish custom and practice.

4. **Hope**. Specifically, Paul said the trial was about the hope found in the Old Testament.

5. **Promise**. God had made promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul relied upon the promises of hope God made to the fathers of Israel.

7. **Fathers**. We rejoice today because Paul showed that the accusers focused upon religious customs and traditions, and not crimes cognizable under Roman law.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by framing the issues very carefully in court.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by showing that the accusers oppose the Scriptures.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul proved the charges against him stemmed from his belief in the promises of God.**

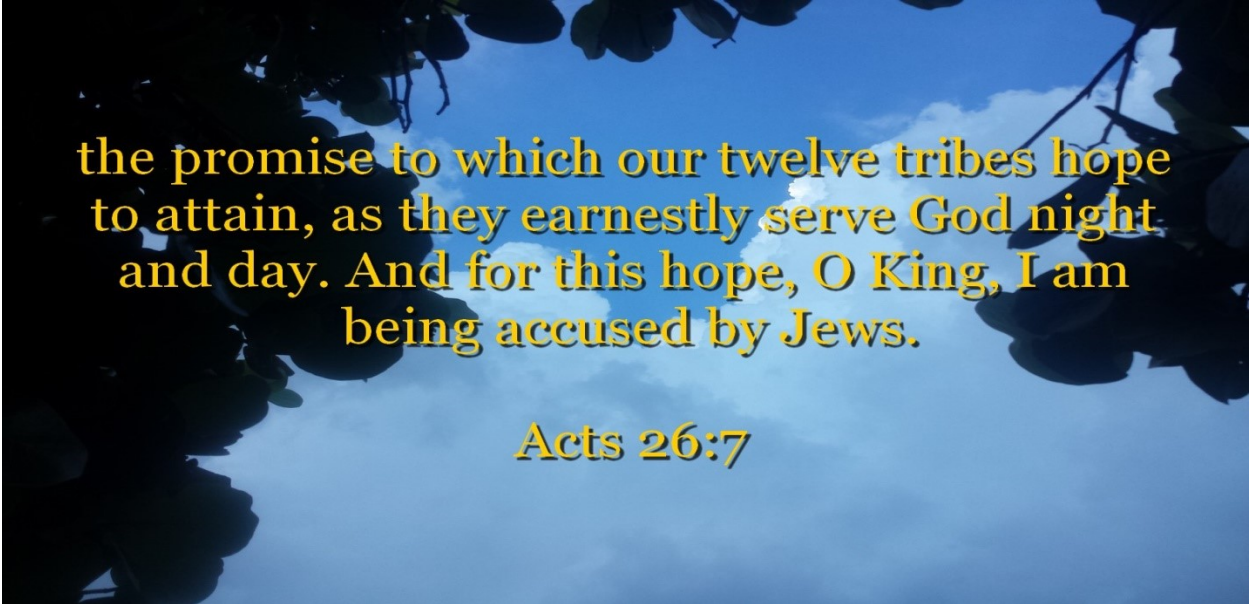
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the hope of the promises of God made thousands of years ago and still true today. Will you live holy in the family of God today by believing the promises of God about a future with the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 907

Hope Today



the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews.

Acts 26:7

What role did hope play in Paul's defense? Paul said that God promised the 12 tribes hope for the future.

Paul described the promise of God to the 12 tribes of Israel. Paul explained that God laid a hope before those 12 tribes so that they would earnestly serve God night and day. Paul said to Agrippa that the Jews accused Paul because of his hope in the promise of God to the fathers of Israel. The 12 tribes shared that hope, but he was being accused because he believed in that hope.

Agrippa had heard Paul's defense concerning the hope of Israel. Paul was clearly talking about the hope of an afterlife and resurrection, without using those explicit words. Paul clarified that the charges against him were purely religious in nature and brought by Jews who denied the hope of an afterlife and resurrection. In other words, Paul said he was just another Pharisee being persecuted and accused by the Sadducees.

Paul had cleverly explained to Agrippa the true nature of the proceedings against him by the Sadducees. They had taken a religious

disagreement and turned it into a legal case against Paul, seeking the death penalty from the Romans.

Accused

1. **Twelve**. Who hoped to attain to the promise of God? Paul said the 12 tribes of Israel all hoped to attain that promise.

2. **Hope**. Paul talked about the hope of the promise as the dividing line between him and his Jewish accusers.

3. **Attain**. Paul showed that the 12 tribes of Israel all hoped to attain the promise of God.

4. **Earnestly**. As they looked forward to the promise of God, they served God earnestly today.

5. **Serve**. Paul in essence commended the service of the 12 tribes of Israel.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul served the living God, and looked forward to attaining the promise of God.

7. **Night**. We rejoice today because God saves people based upon their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, and not their good works which they perform night and day. Paul concluded by saying he was on trial for the hope of Israel.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the hope of the promise of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing with others the promise of God and the hope only He provides.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus, our hope for all eternity.**

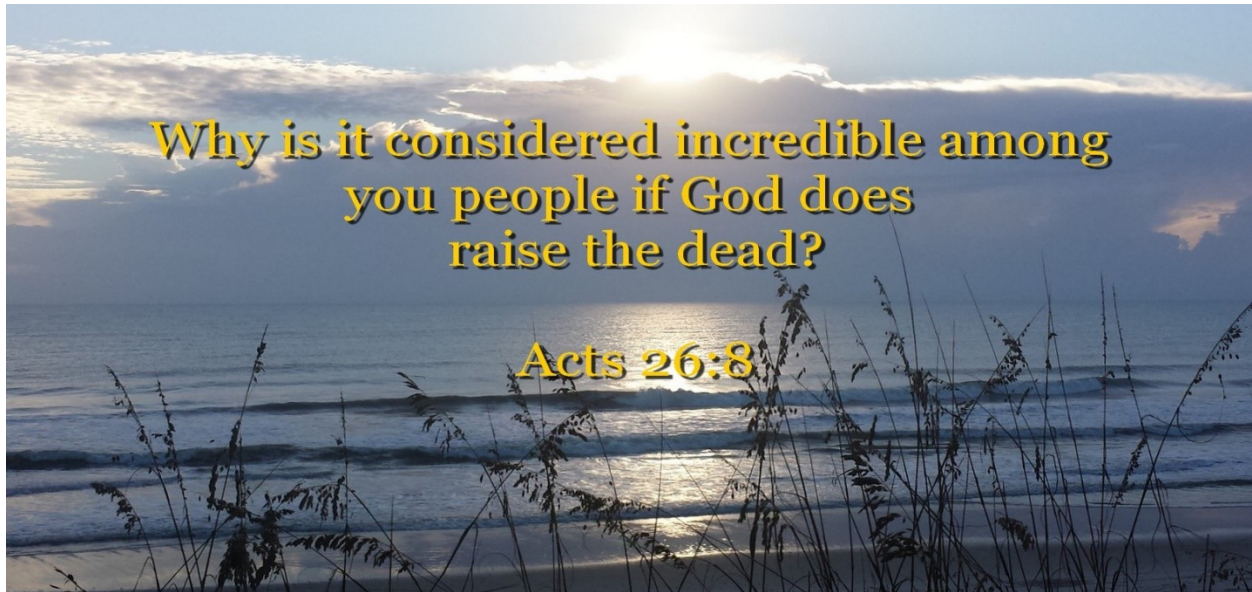
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to keep His promises, always. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking forward to attaining the promises of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 908

Incredible Today



What belief did Paul challenge? Paul challenged the rejection of God raising the dead.

As Paul made his defense before, he asked a very simple question. The Sadducees rejected any idea that God raises the dead. Paul asked them why they considered it incredible that God would raise the dead.

Paul was actually challenging the police of Agrippa, apparently a Sadducee. Paul implied with his question that Agrippa was one of the “you” who found it incredible that God would raise the dead. Furthermore, Agrippa was one of the ones in league with the accusers of Paul.

Paul artfully showed everyone that Agrippa himself rejected the resurrection. Agrippa was part of the Sadducee group who thought it incredible that God would raise the dead. As a Pharisee himself, Paul believed and taught the resurrection of the dead. Paul was not raising the academic possibility of the dead being raised. He was challenging Agrippa to look past his old traditions and consider the Scriptures and the testimony of

Paul indicating that Jesus of Nazareth was resurrected and the Savior of the world.

God

1. **Why**. What probing question did Paul ask of Agrippa? Paul asked why people considered it incredible that God would raise the dead.
2. **Considered**. Paul focused upon people who considered it impossible for God to raise the dead.
3. **Incredible**. Paul asked why they thought it was so incredible that God would raise the dead.
4. **You**. By using the term “you,” Paul was sadly including Agrippa in the group who opposed the resurrection.
5. **God**. Paul implied that the people who opposed a resurrection were opposing God and His word.
6. **Raises**. Living holy in the family of God means that challenging the beliefs of people who reject any idea that God raises people from the dead, may bear spiritual fruit.
7. **Dead**. We rejoice today because God does raise people from the dead, both good people and evil people.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by asking probing questions about resurrection to unbelievers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by engaging unbelievers about their beliefs.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul challenged the ideas and beliefs of Agrippa about resurrection.**

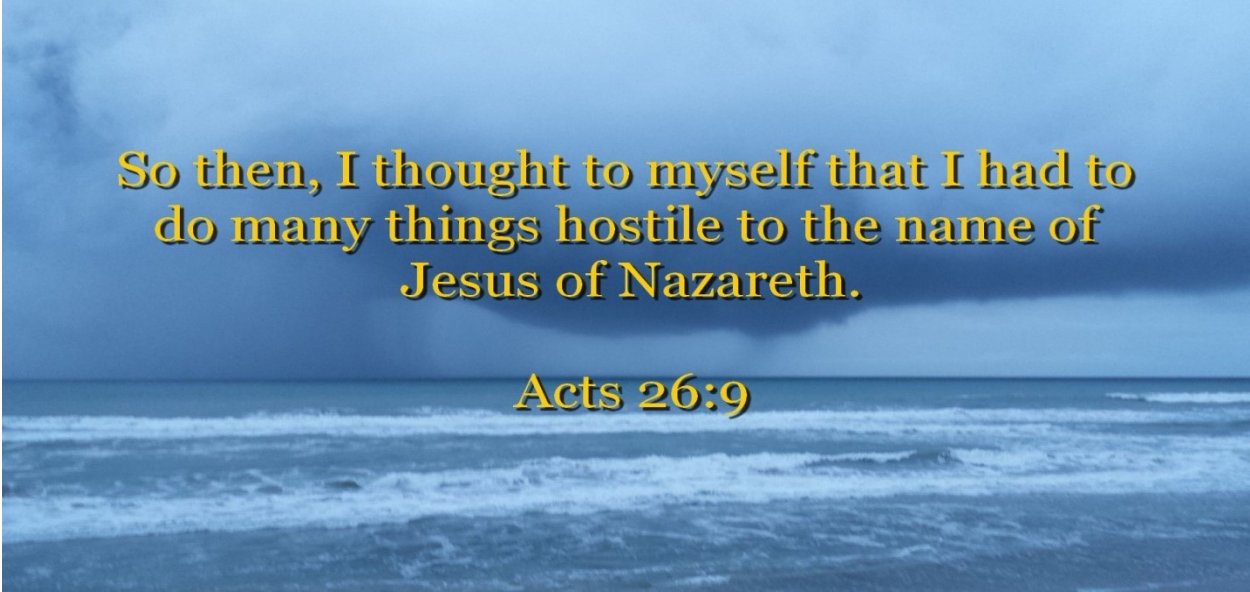
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by challenging the beliefs of people so that they will seek the truth about Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by asking probing questions at just the right time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 909

Thought Today



So then, I thought to myself that I had to
do many things hostile to the name of
Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 26:9

What did Paul do to the Name of Jesus of Nazareth? Paul felt compelled to do many hostile things to the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Why did Paul feel compelled to oppose the Name of Jesus of Nazareth? As a Pharisee, Paul believed in the resurrection and afterlife. Paul also believed that Jesus was not the Messiah. Therefore, Paul concluded wrongly that all of the followers of Jesus were doing very evil things.

Because Paul rejected Jesus as the Messiah, he felt compelled to oppose the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had great zeal so that when he decided to oppose the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, he would pursue that goal earnestly.

As Paul made his defense to Agrippa in front of a group of influential dignitaries, Paul was laying out the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul started that presentation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by showing what he was like before he came to Christ. He established that he was a Pharisee and a persecutor of the followers of Jesus Christ. Next, Paul was going to tell the audience about how he met Jesus Christ in person on the

Damascus Road. God had given Paul yet another opportunity to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to a large audience. Paul was chained by Rome but his audience was chained by sin.

Hostile

1. **Thought**. What did Paul think to himself? He thought he must be hostile to the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.

2. **Do**. In keeping with that thought, Paul had to do many things.

3. **Many**. The many things Paul had in mind all involved persecuting people following Jesus of Nazareth.

4. **Things**. Those things grew out of Paul's hostility towards Jesus of Nazareth.

5. **Hostile**. Because Paul had never known God, he was hostile towards the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Name**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul showed in his defense that he was actually hostile to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ before he became a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Jesus changed everything for Paul who once persecuted Jesus Himself by persecuting His church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by explaining the hostility towards Christ once present in our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by contrasting the hostility towards Christ with our conversion to Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the days of hostility towards Christ and the many things we did which were hostile to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

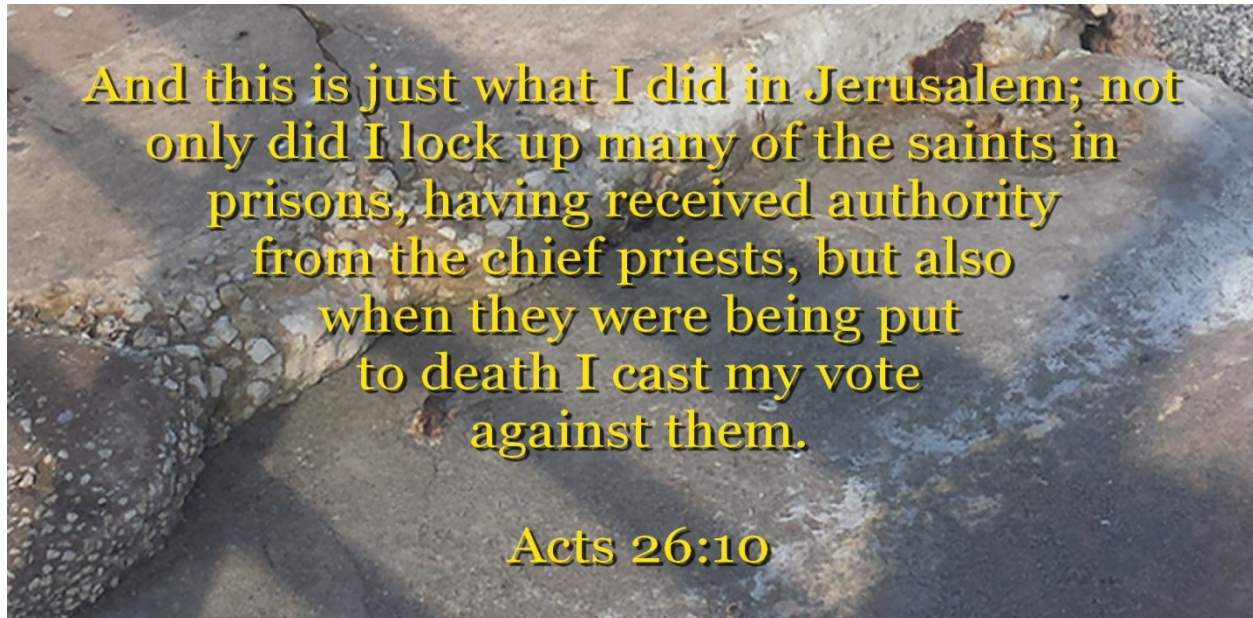
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul described his hostility to Christ before Agrippa and the crowd. Will you live holy in the family of God today by contrasting the hostility towards Christ before salvation to love for Christ after salvation?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 910

Authority Today



What did Paul do in Jerusalem? Paul locked up many of the saints in prison.

The accusers of Paul did not emphasize their previous close connection to Paul. As Paul brought out his defense to King Agrippa, he disclosed that he received authority from the chief priests to lock up as many saints as he could find. Paul zealously pursued the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Jews were stoning Stephen to death, Paul served as a witness and they laid their robes at his feet. In essence he cast his vote against the followers of Jesus Christ, and Stephen in particular. Paul also cast his vote against the saints when they were being put to death.

Paul offered a very compelling defense built upon his personal testimony. He exposed his chief accusers as the very people who sanctioned his behavior previously. He was a persecutor of the followers of Jesus Christ and did everything in his power to oppose the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The accusers of Paul were attacking one of their own.

Death

1. **Jerusalem**. What did Paul say about Jerusalem? Paul told Agrippa and the audience that he was well known to the chief priests in Jerusalem.
2. **Lock**. Before his conversion, Paul used to lock up followers of Jesus.
3. **Prisons**. He would put them in prison.
4. **Priests**. Paul even received authority from the chief priests to incarcerate as many Christians as he could find.
5. **Death**. When they were being put to death, Paul voted against them.
6. **Vote**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul cast his vote to kill Christians because of his hostility to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Against**. We rejoice today because when Paul voted against Christians living longer on earth, he lived in willful ignorance and hostility towards Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering what Paul was like before Jesus converted him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by hearing Paul tell Agrippa about his days as a persecutor of the church with the blessing of the high priests.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by focusing upon the changes that the Lord Jesus Christ brought into our life at the moment of salvation.**

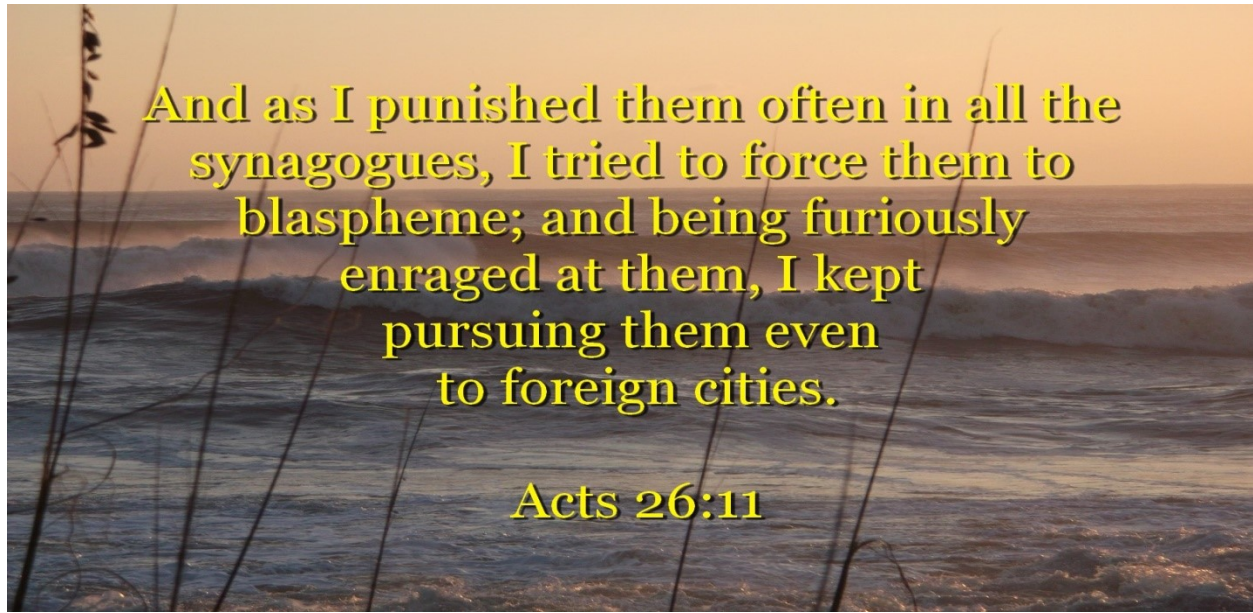
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul showed Agrippa that the chief priests in Jerusalem authorized Paul to persecute Christians. Will you live holy in the family of God today by letting people know how radically Jesus Christ changed your life at the moment of salvation?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 911

Punished Today



How did Paul feel about the followers of Jesus? Paul punished them in the synagogues.

As Paul made his defense to King Agrippa in Caesarea, he linked his close association with his accusers in the past with their present animosity towards him. He explained that at one time he punished all the followers of Jesus he could find in the synagogues. He tried to make them blaspheme.

Paul was furiously enraged with them. He pursued them even to foreign cities, such as Damascus. Paul emphasized that he worked hand in glove with the chief priests and other leaders of the Jews in Jerusalem in conducting his persecution of the followers of Jesus. He was not dispassionate about those attacks, but furiously enraged with those followers.

Paul presented his defense cheerfully before Felix. He also presented a well composed argument to King Agrippa. He not only presented the merits of his defense, but he also undermined the veracity of his accusers by showing the facts that they ignored about their previous relationship with

one another. The accusers were furiously enraged now with Paul, in part because he proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pursuing

1. **I.** What did Paul say about himself? Paul said I punished Christians.
2. **Punished**. Paul punished Christians in the synagogues, because they had not yet formed their separate churches.
3. **Synagogues**. People tend to forget today that the early Christians worshiped in synagogues.
4. **Blaspheme**. Paul tried to get the Christians to blaspheme.
5. **Enraged**. He was enraged with the Christians and his fury drove him to persecute them.
6. **Pursuing**. Living holy in the family of God means that once Paul, filled with rage, was pursuing Christians, but now defended himself as a follower of Jesus Christ.
7. **Cities**. We rejoice today because Paul did not make it to Damascus to persecute Christians, although he did persecute Christians in other foreign cities.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul traveling to cities while filled with rage.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus for turning Paul's heart away from persecution of Christians.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus told Paul that persecuting Christians was the same as persecuting Christ Himself.**

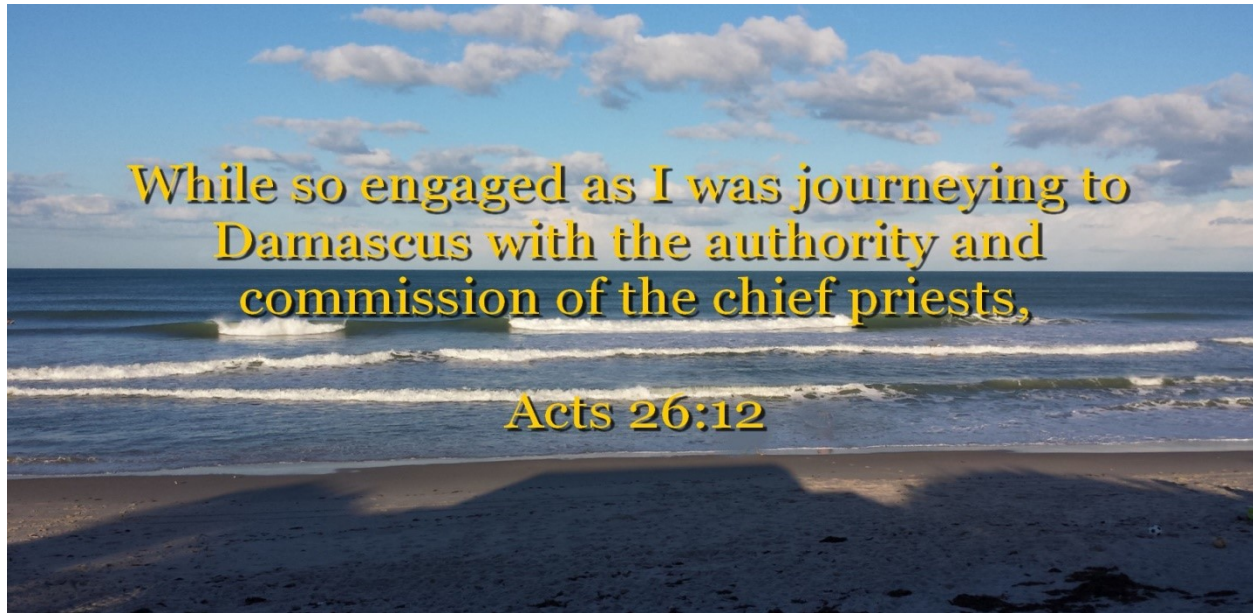
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Jesus changed Paul forever on the Damascus Road and he no longer went to foreign cities to persecute Christians. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for turning Saul the persecutor into Paul the apostle?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 912

Journeying Today



Why was Paul heading to Damascus one day? Paul was heading to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests to punish followers of Jesus in Damascus.

Paul had already stated that he was furiously enraged with the followers of Jesus. He received authority from the chief priests in Jerusalem to pursue those same people wherever he could find them in foreign cities. His goal was to make them blaspheme and so condemn them to death. Paul voted for their death.

His accusers at Caesarea failed to let the court know about the long association between Paul and those accusers. He used to be one of them in many ways. In fact, he might have been one of the most zealous persecutors of the church. Even so, Jesus met Paul on the Damascus Road and everything changed for Paul in an instant.

Paul has skillfully woven together his personal testimony and his defense. He not only had the attention of the audience, but could now proclaim Christ to them based upon his shared experience with his accusers

and many people in the audience. Christ changed his life and Paul proclaimed that Christ could change their life too.

Commision

1. **Engaged**. What was Paul engaged to do? He was traveling to Damascus to persecute Christians there.

2. **Journeying**. As Paul was journeying with fellow travelers to Damascus, his life changed forever.

3. **Damascus**. Paul was heading towards Damascus, filled with fury towards the Christians in the synagogues there.

4. **Authority**. Paul traveled with the authority of the religious leaders in Jerusalem.

5. **Commission**. He had received a commission to persecute Christians at Damascus.

6. **Chief**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the chief priests in Jerusalem had authorized and commissioned Saul to seize and imprison Christians in Damascus.

7. **Priests**. We rejoice today because the chief priests were actually the chief persecutors of Christians in the synagogues.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the chief priests were chief persecutors of the Christians.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Jesus directly intervened in Paul's life on the Damascus Road.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He changes the hearts of some persecutors so that they become His servants.**

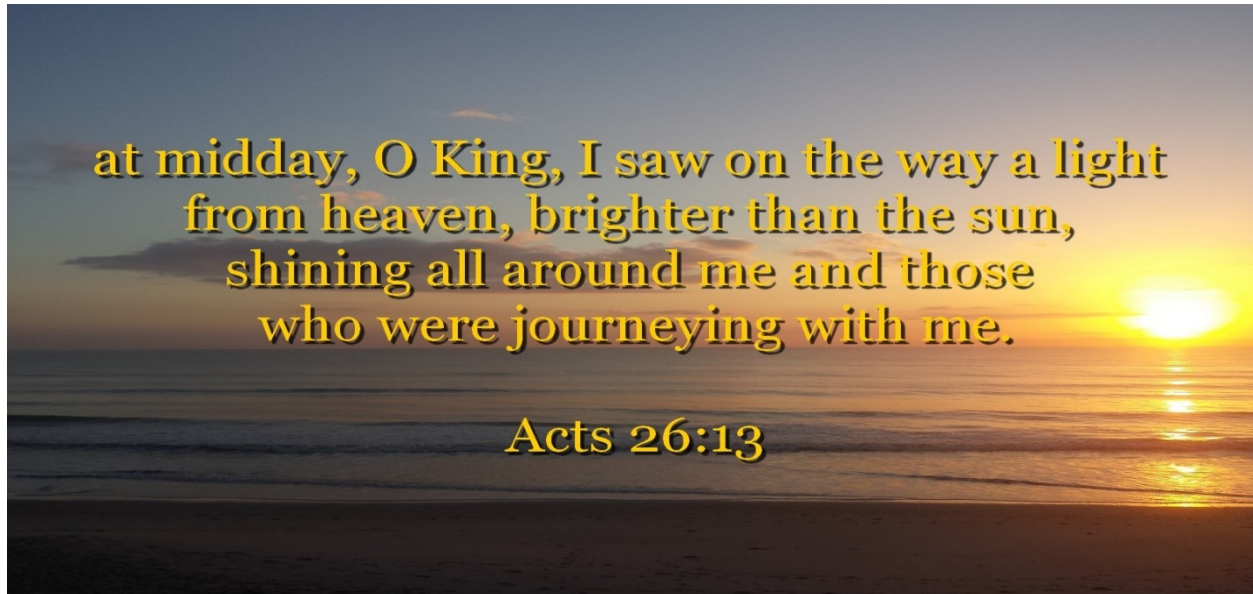
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of the Lord Jesus to change hearts of wicked people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His great grace that changes people's heart as they encounter the love of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 913

Light Today



What did Paul see at midday on the Damascus Road? Paul saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun.

Paul delivered his defense to King Agrippa, an expert on Jewish laws and customs. If King Agrippa had been paying the slightest attention to Paul providing his defense, King Agrippa must have been riveted in place with the revelations Paul was giving him about his accusers and his own past conduct.

Paul was coming to the most challenging part of his defense. God had drawn this crowd full of dignitaries together to hear about the Damascus Road. In gripping detail Paul told about a light brighter than the sun shining upon him at noon as he traveled with the group on the Damascus Road. That light was shining all around him and those who were traveling with him.

Paul made his experience on the Damascus Road the centerpiece of his defense because Jesus of Nazareth was alive and met him there. While the Sadducees rejected the resurrection, the Pharisees affirmed their belief in the resurrection. Therefore, King Agrippa would know immediately that Paul had a background as a Pharisee in proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.

Shining

1. **Midday**. What happened at midday on the Damascus Road? A light brighter than the sun shone around Paul and the people traveling with him.
2. **King**. Paul reminded King Agrippa of his conversion, describing the spectacular events on the Damascus Road as part of his defense.
3. **Light**. Paul described the light as brighter than the sun shining at midday.
4. **Sun**. That light came down from heaven with more brilliance than the sun.
5. **Shining**. The light was shining all around Paul and the fellow travelers on that road.
6. **Me**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul was not having a vision that he alone saw.
7. **Journeying**. We rejoice today because the travelers on the road with Paul journeying to Damascus also saw the brilliant light, proving that Paul was not hallucinating.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how bright that light was on the Damascus Road.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Jesus used that light to capture Paul's attention.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the personal intervention in our life by Jesus Christ so that we would receive the free gift of salvation by faith alone.**

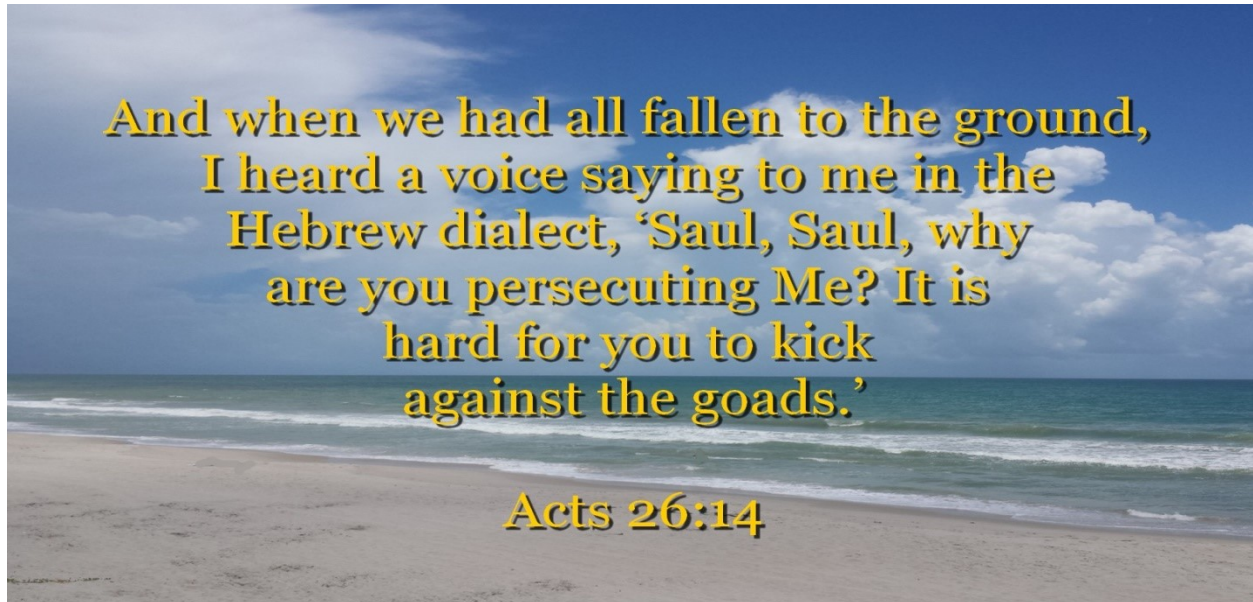
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the light on the Damascus Road shone upon Paul and his traveling companions. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the day of the light that shines brighter than the sun at midday came into your life and opened your spiritual eyes to see Jesus as your Savior for the first time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 914

Persecuting Today



What did Paul hear on the Damascus Road? Paul heard a person speaking in the Hebrew dialect to him and he fell to the ground.

As Paul traveled to Damascus to imprison all the Christians he could find, a bright light shone around him on the road. He then fell to the ground. Then Paul heard a voice speaking in the Hebrew dialect to him. The voice called him by name. The person behind the voice also said that Paul was persecuting Him. It also said that it was hard for Paul to kick against the goads.

Paul provided clear details about what he heard on the Damascus Road. First, Paul made the voice personal because he heard his name, "Saul, Saul." Second, Paul suddenly understood that persecuting Christians in Damascus amounted to persecuting the voice he was hearing. Third, the voice warned Paul that he was kicking against the goads and how hard it was.

Paul provided vivid details and word for word recollection of the voice he heard on the Damascus Road that day. Paul would never forget that day and it changed his life forever. Paul had met Jesus of Nazareth, the risen

Savior, as He spoke to Paul on that road at noon. Paul proclaimed Jesus as the resurrected Savior and proclaimed salvation only in Jesus. Paul also showed that persecuting Christians did not escape the notice of Jesus as God.

Me

1. **Fallen**. What did the voice say to Paul? The voice addressed Paul by name.
2. **Ground**. He had fallen to the ground when the light shone around them.
3. **Voice**. Paul heard a voice talking to him.
4. **Hebrew**. It spoke in a Hebrew dialect he understood.
5. **Saul**. The voice addressed them by name, Saul, Saul.
6. **Why**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus addressed Saul by name and asked him a piercing question, why are you persecuting Me?
7. **Persecuting**. We rejoice today because Jesus considers persecution against His children as persecuting Jesus Himself and kicking against the goads.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the voice calling to Paul by name.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by using our testimony of conversion to Christ as one way of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus said that persecuting Christians was like kicking against the goads.**

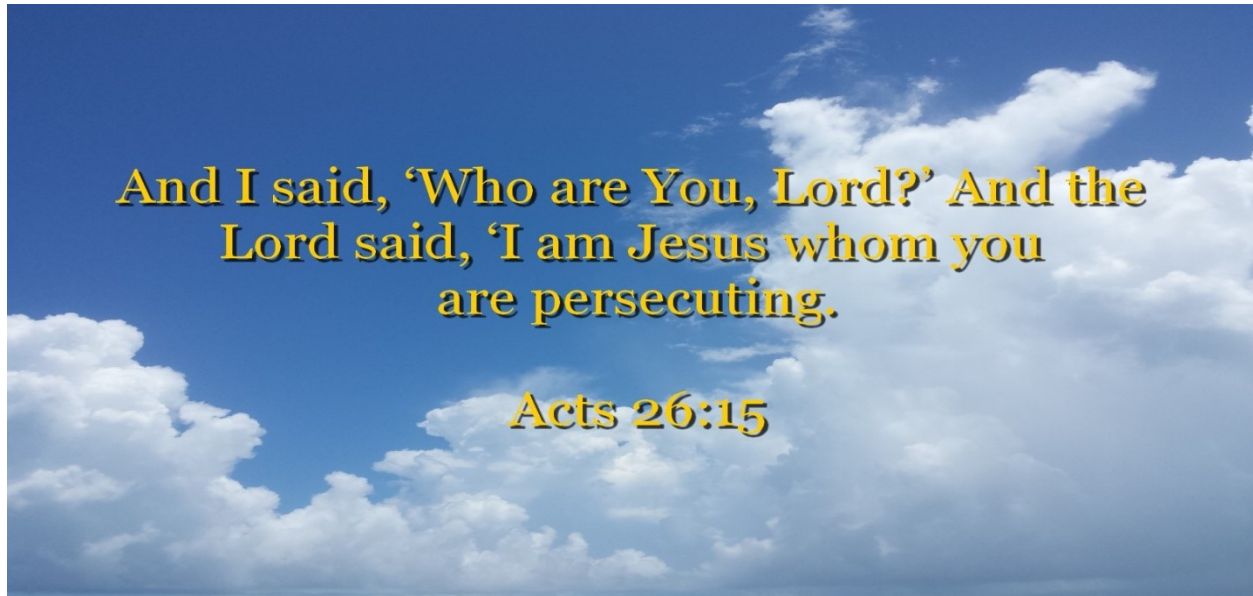
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for His watch care over us so that He knows when people persecute us and He treats them as if they were persecuting Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the way He looks after us every day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 915

Lord Today



What question did Paul ask the voice? Paul asked who are you, Lord?

Paul was delivering his defense before King Agrippa and many important people gathered in the auditorium at Caesarea. Paul described how he met the Lord Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road. The Lord Jesus spoke to Paul, but He was not visible in human form. Paul and the other travelers with him saw a light brighter than the sun at noon time.

Paul then heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” Paul immediately understood that the Lord Jesus was talking. The Lord Jesus also told Paul that it was hard for him to kick against the goads.

Paul also asked the question, “Who are you Lord?” The voice replied, “I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting.” Instantly, Paul understood that he was talking with Jesus, the risen Savior. Jesus knew his name issued him a strong warning about persecuting the Christians. Jesus let him know that persecuting the Christians was the same as persecuting the Lord Jesus. Paul wove together the events on the Damascus Road with his personal faith and

testimony growing out of that encounter on the Damascus Road with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Persecuting

1. **I.** What did Paul ask Jesus? Paul asked, “Who are you, Lord?”
2. **Who.** Paul saw the light and heard the voice, but he did not know Who was speaking to him.
3. **You.** Paul asked the voice, “Who are You, Lord?”
4. **Am.** Jesus replied, I am Jesus.
5. **Jesus.** Jesus identified Himself to Paul as the One whom Paul was persecuting.
6. **You.** Living holy in the family of God means that Paul suddenly realized that by persecuting Christians, he was persecuting Jesus Christ, the risen Savior.
7. **Persecuting.** We rejoice today because Jesus saved Paul on the Damascus Road and stopped him from persecuting the church from that day forward.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the marvelous way he saved Paul on the Damascus Road.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for turning Paul away from persecution and towards serving the Lord Jesus Himself.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by seeing how Jesus turned Paul into a brand-new creature.**


Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He saved Paul on the Damascus Road to become the apostle to the Gentiles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for turning Paul around so that he went into Damascus not seeking Christians to persecute, but drenched in the forgiveness of Jesus Christ for persecuting Him?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 916

Purpose Today



But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

Acts 26:16

What did Jesus tell Paul to do? Jesus told Paul to stand up on his feet.

Paul had been traveling to the city of Damascus with letters of authority from the chief priest to imprison Christians there. As he was on his way to Damascus, a bright light showed up on the road and a voice spoke to Paul. That voice was Jesus asking Paul why he persecuted Him.

Jesus then gave Paul further instructions. First, he told Paul to get up and stand on his feet. Jesus then gave him instructions about his entire life. Jesus appeared for the purpose of appointing Paul a witness for Jesus. Paul would testify to the things he had already seen, plus things he would see from Jesus in the future. That prophecy was being fulfilled in Caesarea as Paul made his defense to Agrippa.

Having been an appointed witness for Jesus, Paul began proclaiming Jesus in Damascus and then Jerusalem and then Asia and Europe. Paul proclaimed Jesus in many different places, plus the island of Cyprus. As Jesus had commissioned Paul, so Paul served as a faithful witness of Jesus

to the world. Paul made it a habit to go to the synagogues first, and then the Gentiles.

Witness

1. **Get**. Why did Jesus appear to Paul? Jesus came to appoint him a minister.
2. **Stand**. Jesus started by telling Paul the stand up on his feet.
3. **Purpose**. He explained that His purpose was to make Paul a minister.
4. **Appeared**. Jesus appeared to Paul on the Damascus Road with the express purpose of commissioning Paul to ministry.
5. **Minister**. As a minister, Jesus said Paul was to proclaim the things that Jesus showed him and would show him in the future.
6. **Witness**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus wants each of us to serve as a witness for Him every day.
7. **Things**. We rejoice today because Jesus showed Paul many things and would also show him things when Jesus appeared to him in the future.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by heeding the command of Jesus to be a witness for Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming Christ and the things we have learned from Him in the Scriptures and the power He wields in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of Jesus making us His ministers each day.**

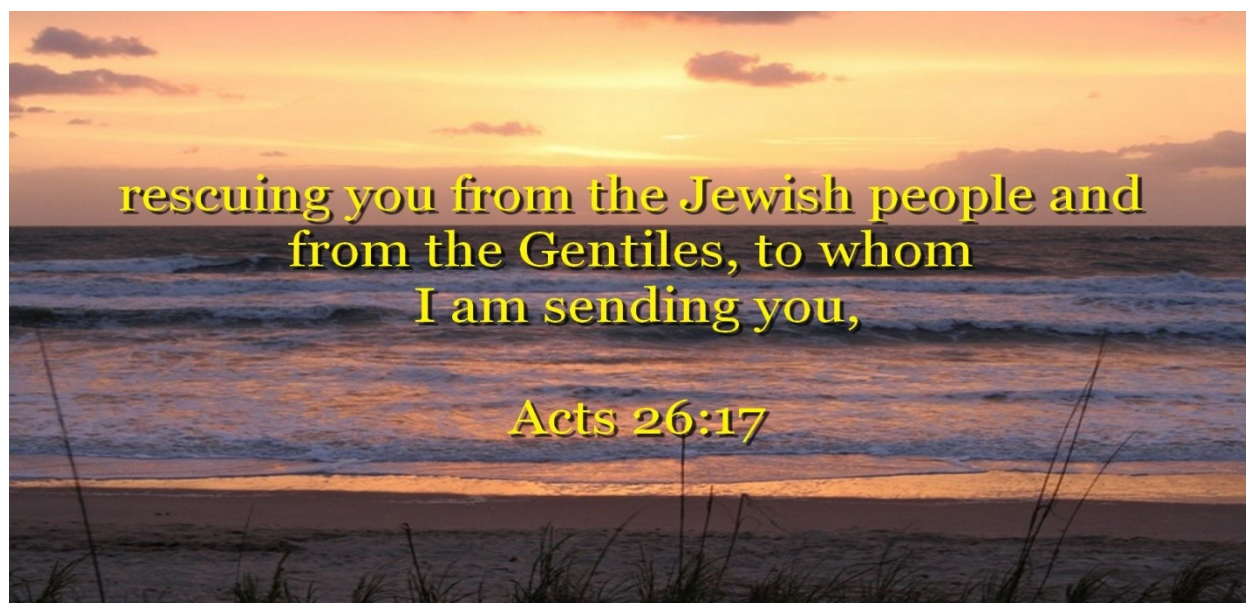
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by faithfully fulfilling our ministry as given to us by Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the ministry Jesus gave to us of spreading His word to all the world?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 917

Rescuing Today



What else did Jesus promise Paul? Jesus promised that Paul would be rescued from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles.

Jesus implied that Paul would be rescued from both groups. Notice how wisely Paul wove together both the Jewish people and the Gentiles persecuting him for his faith. Jesus would need to rescue Paul from angry Jews and from hostile Gentiles.

By appointing Paul as a witness for Him, Jesus knew full well what would happen to Paul. Paul had been rescued twice from the Jews in Jerusalem, and a murder plot against him was also thwarted by the grace of God. Paul had also been rescued in both Europe and Asia, although once he was stoned and left for dead.

Jesus appointed Paul to a life of trials and tribulations and joy in spreading the message of Jesus. Paul remained faithful to the calling of Jesus, overcoming persecution from the Jews and the Gentiles. Paul depended upon the faithful presence of Jesus in his life and the Holy Spirit provided the words for him to say.

Sending

1. **Rescuing**. Where was Jesus sending Paul as His minister? Jesus was sending Paul to both Jews and Gentiles, and many places where Jesus would need to be rescuing him from evil people seeking to kill him.

2. **You**. Jesus said I am sending you today.

3. **People**. He sent Paul to the Jewish people.

4. **Gentiles**. He also sent Paul to the Gentiles.

5. **I**. Jesus personally sent Paul, just like He sent His disciples after His resurrection.

6. **Sending**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus is sending every believer to be a minister in His Name today.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because Jesus has made each of us a minister of reconciliation, just like Jesus said to Saul, “I am sending you.”

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Jesus sending Paul to be His minister to both Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus because He loves us and made us ministers for Him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to rescue us in times of need.**

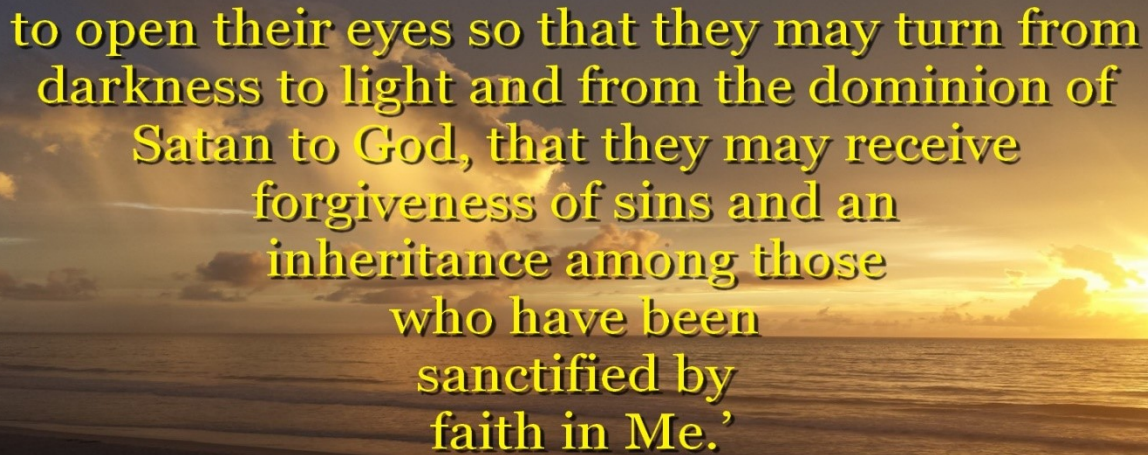
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by fulfilling the ministry to both Jews and Gentiles, as God provides opportunities. Will you live holy in the family of God today by walking worthy of your ministry today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 918

Turn Today



to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

Acts 26:18

What did Jesus tell Paul about darkness and light? Paul said that Jesus appointed him to open the eyes of people so that they may turn from darkness to light.

Jesus commissioned Paul to spread good news throughout the world. Jesus specifically told Paul that he would be a witness of Jesus Who would open the eyes of people so that they may turn from darkness to light. They would also turn from the dominion of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Jesus.

Jesus described in a nutshell the life and message of Paul. By the time Paul arrived in Damascus, he knew what Jesus appointed him to do and the message he was to proclaim. In fact, Paul was doing the very thing that Jesus appointed him to do by testifying to Agrippa and all the other dignitaries gathered in the auditorium. He was proclaiming to them that Jesus would open their eyes and they could turn from darkness to light and be free of the dominion of Satan once and for all. By faith in the risen Lord, Jesus of

Nazareth, the Christ of God, Agrippa and everybody in the audience could receive the free gift of eternal life and forgiveness of sins by being sanctified in Jesus.

Receive

1. **Open**. What message will Paul proclaim? Jesus will open the eyes of both Jews and Gentiles.

2. **Eyes**. When Jesus opens their eyes for the first time, they will understand their sinfulness.

3. **Darkness**. By the power of Jesus, they will turn from darkness to light.

4. **Dominion**. They will also turn from the dominion of Satan.

5. **Satan**. Before someone comes to faith in Christ for salvation, they live under the dominion of Satan every day until they come to God and live under His dominion.

6. **Forgiveness**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus provides forgiveness of sins for everyone who turns to Him for salvation.

7. **Faith**. We rejoice today because Jesus promised to sanctify us by faith in Him alone.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God that He turns people from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by fulfilling our ministry of proclaiming the forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying the ministry that Jesus has given to each one of us to proclaim salvation and the forgiveness of sins by faith in Jesus.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the risen Savior, Jesus of Nazareth, and the salvation found only in Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and His salvation with someone today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 919

Prove Today



So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient
to the heavenly vision,

Acts 26:19

How did Paul link the heavenly vision to Agrippa? Paul said he did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision.

As Paul presented his defense to King Agrippa, Paul recounted how Jesus commissioned him to serve Jesus as a messenger, proclaiming salvation and forgiveness of sins.

Paul also told Agrippa that he did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision. Paul meant that he had been fulfilling the command of Christ Jesus to go into all the world proclaiming deliverance from the kingdom of darkness and forgiveness of sins by the sanctified power the Lord Jesus Christ.

If Paul would have remained silent, then he would be disobedient to the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words Paul had no alternative but to obey Christ and proclaim him as Savior. Paul also emphasized the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God and Messiah of Israel. Jesus not only died for the sins of the whole world, but he was also raised from the dead on the third day. Paul provided eyewitness testimony of what happened on the

Damascus Road. Jesus appeared to him, called him by name, and commissioned him to spread the good news to the whole world.

Vision

1. **So**. So what did Paul tell Agrippa? Paul explained that he was being obedient to the command of Jesus of Nazareth.

2. **Agrippa**. King Agrippa was hearing from Paul his defense against the charges brought by the Jews.

3. **I**. Paul spoke in the first person saying, “I did not prove disobedient.”

4. **Prove**. Paul meant that Jesus commanded him to be His minister and to do otherwise would prove that Paul was disobedient.

5. **Disobedient**. Paul was not disobedient to the command of Jesus and so spread the good news of Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles.

6. **Heavenly**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision he received on the Damascus Road.

7. **Vision**. We rejoice today because Paul had a vision of Jesus talking to him and commissioning him to be His minister.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by not being disobedient to Jesus and His calling upon our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus as a daily minister for Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reminding each other that we are all daily ministers for Christ.**

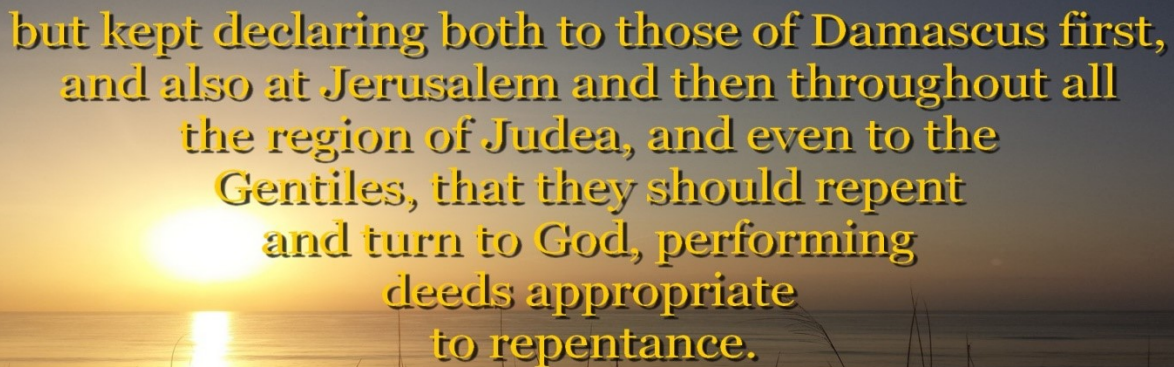
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus in our obedience to His calling upon our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by obeying Jesus and His command to be His witness?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 920

Declaring Today



but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first,
and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all
the region of Judea, and even to the
Gentiles, that they should repent
and turn to God, performing
deeds appropriate
to repentance.

Acts 26:20

How did Paul fulfill the commission from Jesus? Paul started proclaiming Christ in Damascus and then moved into other areas.

As Paul presented his defense to King Agrippa and the dignitaries in the auditorium, Paul explained that he was compelled to follow the command of Jesus to spread the good news. Paul went first to Damascus and showed them from the Scriptures that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ and resurrected from the dead. Then he went to Jerusalem and made the same proclamation.

From Jerusalem Paul went throughout all of Judea, proclaiming Christ in the synagogues, to the Jews and Gentiles alike. Jesus the risen Savior loves both Jews and Gentiles without distinction. Paul emphasized that the people should repent and turn to God. Then they should do good deeds appropriate to repentance.

Paul beautifully summarized not only his conversion to Christ, but also how Christ commissioned him for service immediately. The Jews had nothing to fear from the Lord Jesus Christ if they believed Him, but if they

rejected Him, then they would still live under the dominion of darkness. Salvation was from the Jews, but only through the Jewish Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, risen from the dead.

Repentance

1. **Declaring**. To whom did Paul declare the salvation in Jesus? Paul was declaring salvation in Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles.
2. **Damascus**. Paul started his ministry for Jesus at Damascus.
3. **Jerusalem**. Then he continued his ministry for Jesus in Jerusalem.
4. **Judea**. Paul also expanded his ministry to the whole region of Judea, proclaiming Jesus as the risen Savior.
5. **Gentiles**. Paul also ministered to the Gentiles.
6. **Repent**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus wants us to repent and turn to God for salvation.
7. **Deeds**. We rejoice today because God not only wants us to repent and turn to God for salvation, but also to perform deeds appropriate to repentance.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming salvation to people so they turn to God in repentance.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging people to receive Christ by faith alone and then to do deeds in keeping with their repentance.**

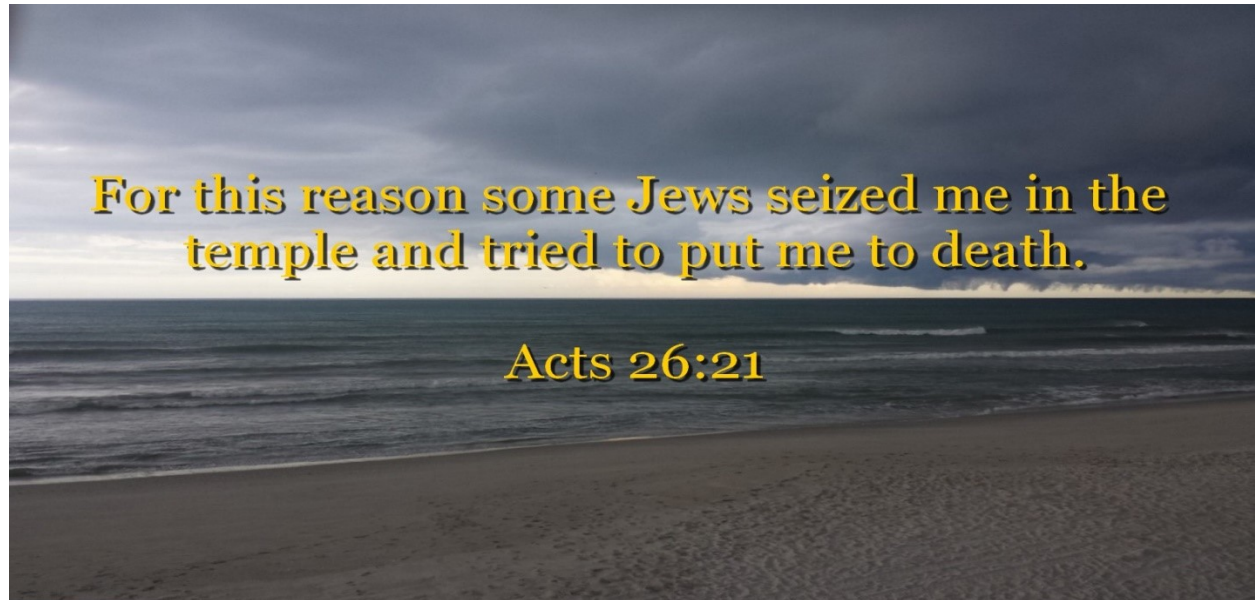
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the salvation in Jesus Christ to people all around us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by encouraging believers to do good deeds in keeping with their repentance?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 921

Seized Today



Why did the Jews seize Paul in the Temple? They seized Paul because he told them to repent and turn to God.

Paul explained to King Agrippa why the Jews tried to kill him. He began with this testimony about meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road. He then enlightened King Agrippa with the news that the very people prosecuting him now had previously authorized him to go to different cities to persecute the Christians.

Paul wanted the entire audience to know why he was on trial for the hope of the resurrection. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection and sought to persecute anybody who proclaimed that fact. The Pharisees, however, did believe in the resurrection and Paul was a Pharisee of the Pharisees before salvation.

Paul was moving towards a conclusion of his defense. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through him, Paul not only outlined the changes in his life, but he linked his defense to the Scriptures about Messiah. Paul

wanted everyone in the audience to hear about Jesus as the resurrected Savior, prophesied as the Messiah of Israel.

Death

1. **For**. Why did the Jews try to seize Paul in the Temple? They tried to seize Paul because he told them to repent and turn to God.

2. **This**. Paul said his call for them to repent and turn to God and then do deeds in keeping with repentance infuriated the Jews.

3. **Reason**. That reason prompted the Jews to seize Paul in the Temple.

4. **Seized**. They seized Paul and tried to tear him to bits because he was proclaiming repentance in the Name of Jesus Christ.

5. **Temple**. The Jews wanted to silence Paul and his proclamation of Jesus of Nazareth as Savior.

6. **Tried**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the Jews tried to kill Paul because he told them to repent and turn to God.

7. **Death**. We rejoice today because although the Jews tried to put Paul to death on several occasions, the Lord Jesus Christ kept him alive to be His chosen messenger.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the reasons that unbelievers attack Christians.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews tried to seize Paul and kill him because he told them to repent and turn to God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by performing deeds in keeping with our salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

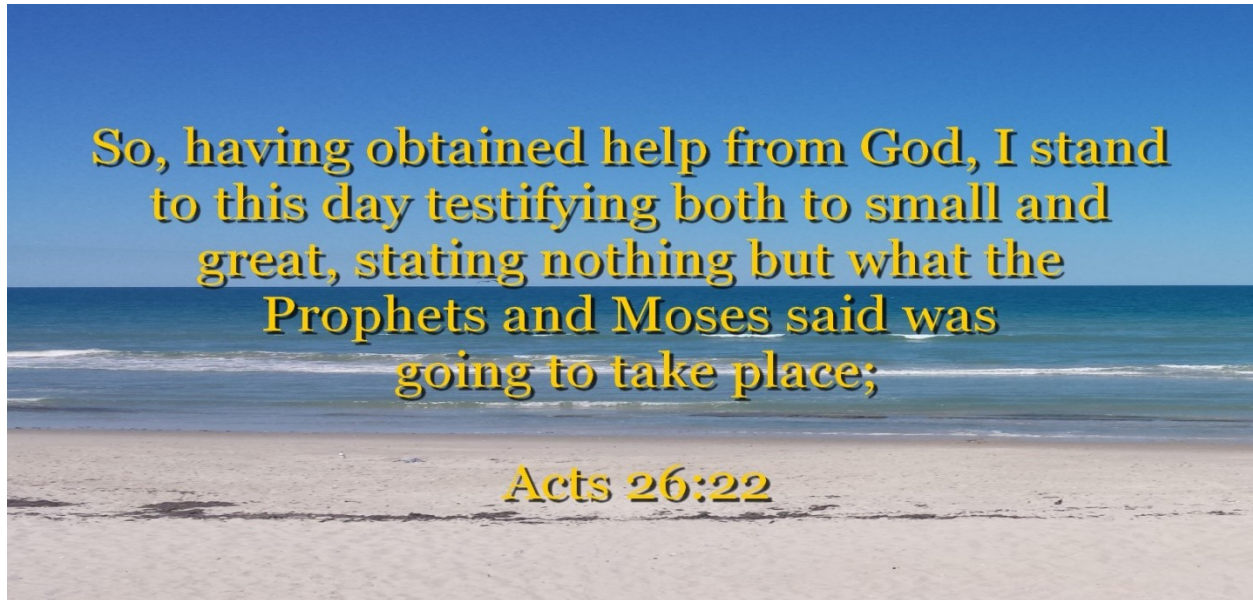
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus because we have repented and turned to Jesus our God and Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that unbelievers hate Christians just as they hated Christ Himself?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 922

Help Today



What had taken place? Paul explained that what the prophets and Moses said about the future had come to pass.

The Jews charged Paul with defiling the Temple and breaking the Law of Moses. Paul replied that what the prophets and Moses said would take place had been fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

Paul said he was standing before the auditorium crowd because of God. Jesus had met him on the Damascus Road and the Holy Spirit empowered him to speak. He testified to both small and great, stating nothing but what the prophets and Moses said was going to take place.

Paul now drew attention explicitly to the Scriptures. He built his defense using the Scriptures as his fortress. Paul proclaimed the fulfillment of the prophets of the Old Testament concerning the Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah and Paul his chosen messenger.

Paul was not expressing his personal opinions about right and wrong. On the contrary Paul was showing that his message confirmed both the

words of Moses and the prophets concerning the coming Messiah. They looked forward to Messiah coming, and Paul proclaimed Jesus of Nazareth as the One who fulfilled the Scriptures concerning Messiah.

Testifying

1. **Help**. What was Paul stating? Having received help from God, Paul was stating nothing other than what the prophets and Moses had spoken about things to come.

2. **Stand**. Paul said, “I stand this day testifying to both small and great.”

3. **Testifying**. Paul was testifying about the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Christ.

4. **Nothing**. Paul was talking about nothing else.

5. **Prophets**. Being raised as a Pharisee, Paul was familiar with both the Law of Moses and the Prophets.

6. **Moses**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul was not contradicting the Law of Moses and the Prophets, but rather proclaiming the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

7. **Said**. We rejoice today because Paul said what Moses and the prophets said earlier about Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by recognizing how Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul made his defense by standing upon Moses and the prophets.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by recognizing how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies provided by Moses and the prophets concerning the Christ.**

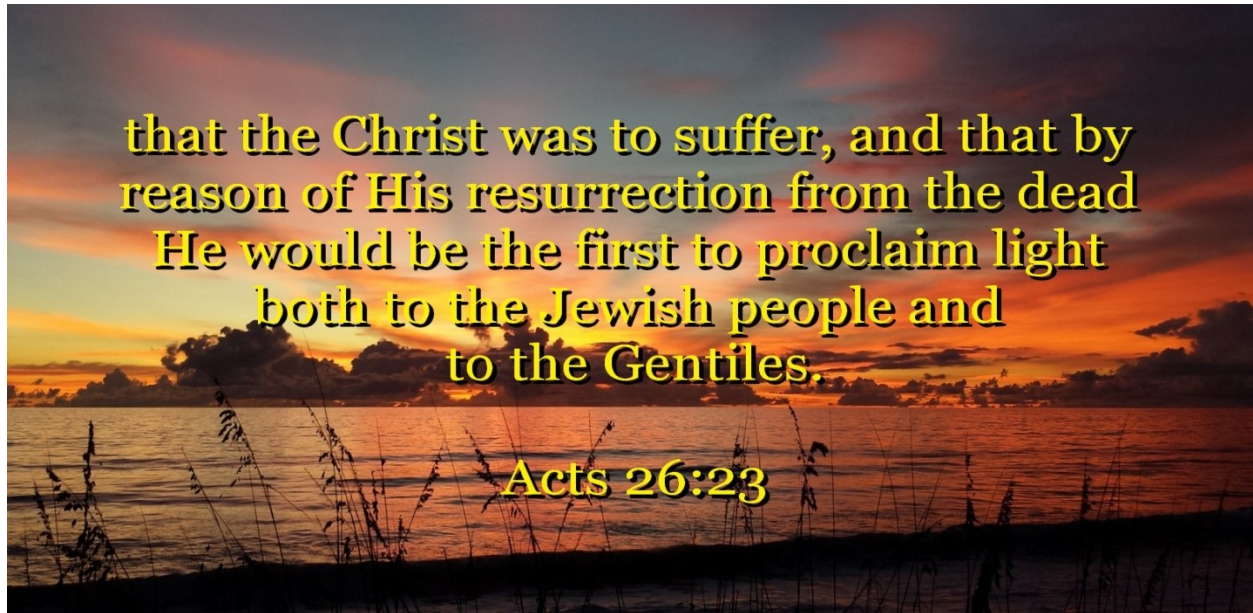
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by reminding people that we do not contradict prophecies of Moses and the prophets. Will you live holy in the family of God today by instructing people how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies concerning the Christ made by Moses and the prophets?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 923

Christ Today



How did Paul explain the death and suffering of Jesus? Paul explained that the Old Testament prophets and Moses predicted the suffering of Christ.

Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah of Israel fulfilled the prophecies of the Suffering Servant. Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel forward all proclaimed Christ as Savior who came to suffer with glory to follow.

Paul then explained the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Because Jesus was resurrected from the dead, He would be the first to proclaim light to both Jewish people and the Gentiles. As the chosen representative of Jesus, Paul obeyed the heavenly vision and explained to people how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, Paul had proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ and linked that to salvation in Him for all who believed. God was no respecter of persons. Jesus proclaimed salvation to both Jews and Gentiles. Paul had just turned the Jewish world upside down by proclaiming to the chief priests and other important Jews that God loves Jews and Gentiles.

Resurrection

1. **Christ**. What did the prophets say about Christ? They said that Christ must suffer.
2. **Suffer**. Many Jews did not recognize that the Messiah must suffer.
3. **Resurrection**. By reason of his resurrection, the Christ would be the first to proclaim light.
4. **First**. First means that Jesus was the first to be resurrected, and then He proclaimed light.
5. **Proclaim**. As the first to proclaim light, Jesus proclaimed light both to the Jews and the Gentiles.
6. **Light**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus proclaimed light to the Jews and the Gentiles.
7. **Jews**. We rejoice today because God was never partial to the Jews when it came to salvation, because he offered salvation to both Jews and Gentiles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Jesus as the first to proclaim light both to Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that because of the resurrection, Jesus was the first to proclaim light. Remembering that the resurrection of Jesus Christ remains essential to salvation and the proclamation of light.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the resurrection of Jesus Christ remains essential to salvation and the proclamation of light.**

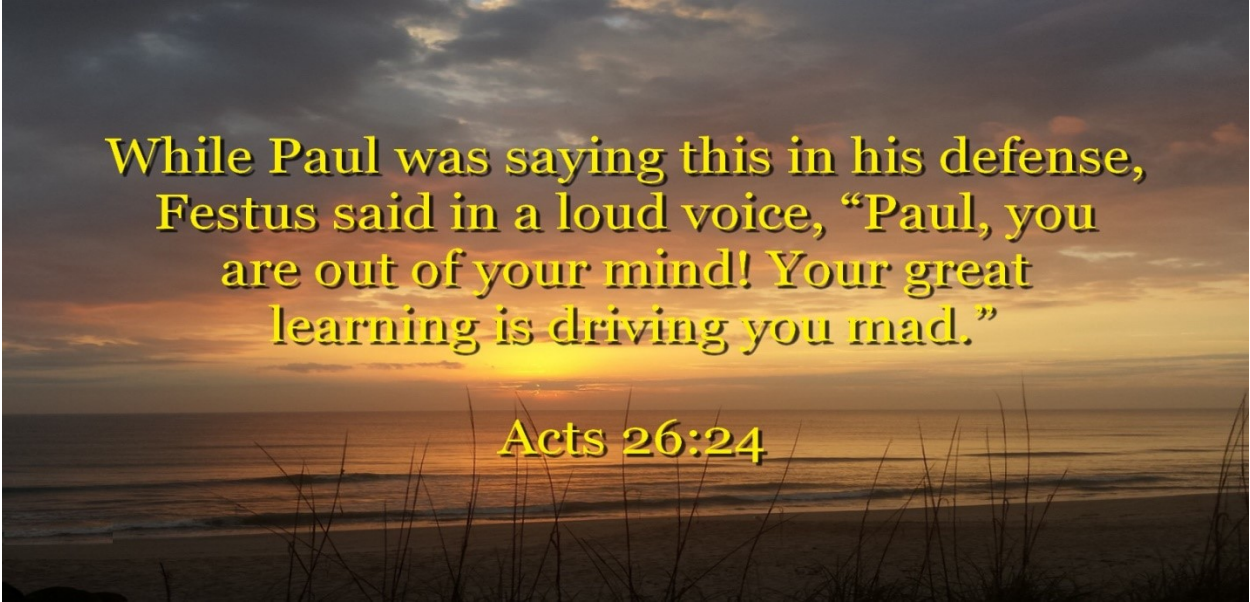
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Jesus was the first to proclaim light?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 924

Paul Today



While Paul was saying this in his defense,
Festus said in a loud voice, “Paul, you
are out of your mind! Your great
learning is driving you mad.”

Acts 26:24

What did Festus interject? He said Paul was out of his mind

Festus had laid out Paul’s case to King Agrippa. Festus needed something to write to Caesar about the charges against Paul and he did not know what to write. He hoped that King Agrippa, being an expert on Jewish custom and law, could help him write something to Caesar about Paul.

Having heard the outline of the case, King Agrippa said he would like to meet Paul immediately and Festus accommodated him the next day. Paul then presented his defense to King Agrippa. Paul made an absolutely compelling case for the resurrection of Jesus Christ because He was the Messiah of Israel who would suffer, with glory to follow. In fact, Paul showed that the Scriptures fully supported Jesus of Nazareth being the Messiah. He was the first to proclaim forgiveness of sins and salvation because of the resurrected Christ.

Having heard the compelling argument from Paul, Festus rejected it verbally. Festus said that Paul was out of his mind. Then he said that Paul’s

great learning had driven him mad. Festus simply dismissed all that Paul was saying as the product of a mind that had lost its way.

Festus

1. **Festus**. What happened while Paul was making his defense to Agrippa? Festus began to shout.
2. **Voice**. With a loud voice Festus spoke directly to Paul.
3. **You**. Festus proclaimed the Paul was crazy.
4. **Mind**. He asked if Paul had lost his mind.
5. **Great**. Festus then declared that Paul had suffered from great learning.
6. **Learning**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Festus said that Paul's great learning caused him to go mad.
7. **Mad**. We rejoice today because Paul had not gone mad, but he had become obedient to the high calling of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting people will call us mad for proclaiming Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by learning more about Jesus from the Scriptures.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying for one another as we proclaim Christ while people accuse us of being mad.**

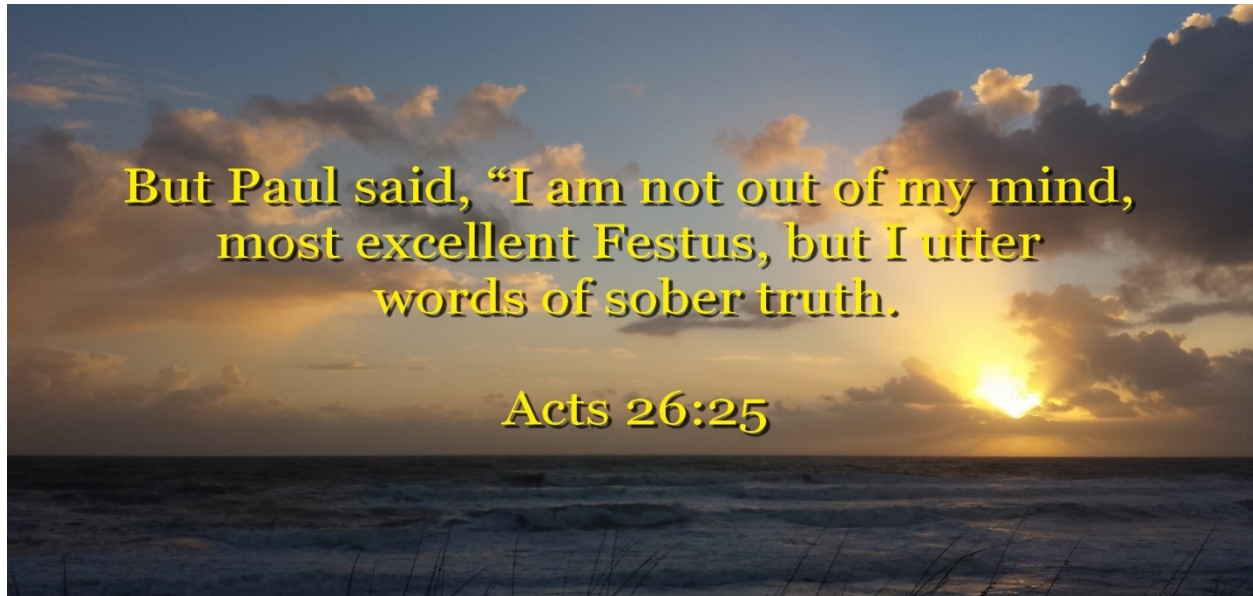
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Festus shouting out that Paul had gone mad. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting people to think and say that you are crazy because you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ as Risen Savior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 925

Words Today



How did Paul reply to Festus? Paul denied being out of his mind.

Paul gave clear proof that he was not out of his mind. He gave a reasonable reply to Festus. Paul told Festus that he uttered words of sober truth. Paul had seen a heavenly vision on the road to Damascus. He understood suddenly that Jesus really was the Christ who suffered with glory to follow. As the first fruit of the resurrection, Jesus proclaimed salvation through faith in Him and the forgiveness of sins. Paul then came along and said that people should repent and turn to God and do deeds in keeping with their repentance, echoing the words of John the Baptist and Jesus Himself.

Paul gave such a moving presentation that Festus could not contain himself. His outburst drew attention to Paul and Festus. Festus pled the insanity defense for Paul, but Paul denied being insane. Instead, Paul said he spoke the sober truth. Those truths the Paul spoke demanded a verdict from Festus and everyone else about Jesus.

Paul brought people to a decision in their life about salvation. That salvation only came through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah of

Israel. Today is the day for salvation for Jews and Greeks in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Truth

1. **Paul**. How did Paul respond to Festus? Paul declared he was not out of his mind.
2. **Not**. To prove he was not out of his mind, Paul made a very clear reply.
3. **Mind**. Festus dismissed Paul's testimony as that of a madman.
4. **Festus**. Festus, however, should have taken the proclamation of Paul seriously.
5. **Utter**. Paul said, "I utter words of sober truth."
6. **Sober**. Living holy in the family of God means that we all should utter words of sober truth to stir people to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.
7. **Truth**. We rejoice today because when people accuse us of being out of our minds, we remember they said the same thing about Paul long before us.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by uttering words of sober truth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding why people would say we are out of our mind for proclaiming Christ, the resurrected Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning more about Jesus from the Scriptures.**

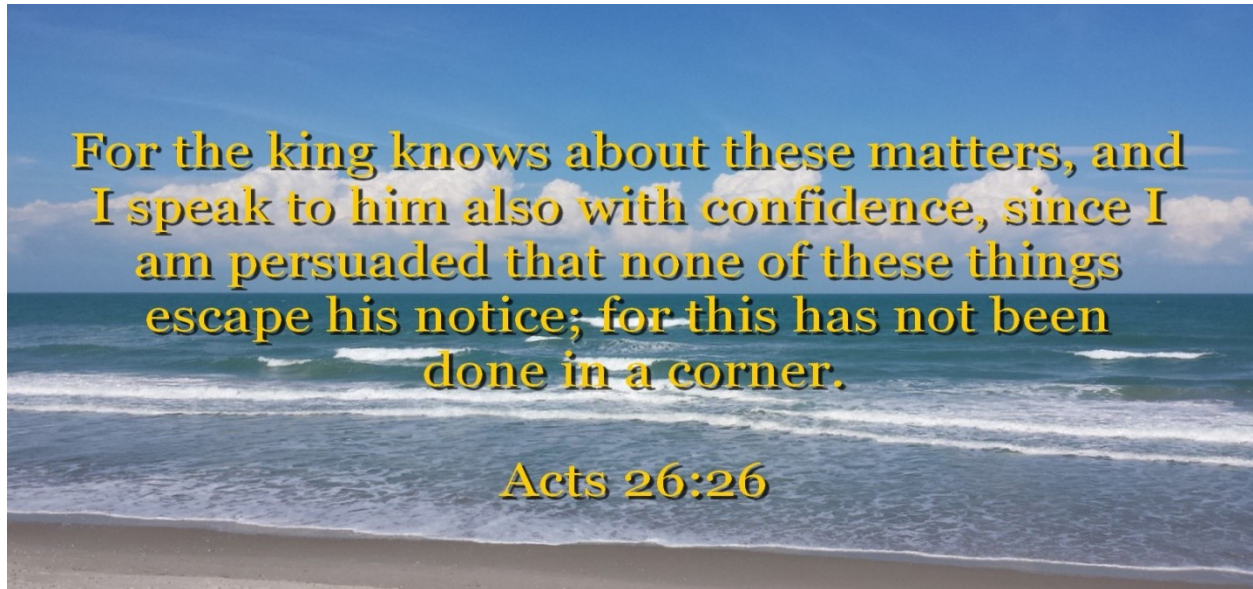
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by uttering words of sober truth about Jesus and His resurrection. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting that people will dismiss our testimony about Jesus by calling us mad?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 926

King Today



What confidence did Paul have in Agrippa? Paul was confident that Agrippa knew all about the things Paul spoke about.

Paul expressed his confidence in King Agrippa before everybody in the auditorium. He helped his case tremendously by lifting Agrippa up before everyone else is a knowledgeable person. Paul even said that King Agrippa knew everything that happened, because nothing escaped his notice. Nothing had been done in a corner out of the sight of King Agrippa and everyone else.

Paul skillfully built a bridge to King Agrippa and reached out to him personally. Paul was not so much defending himself as proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ to the audience. Paul had made a convincing case that Jesus Christ was alive and talked to Paul on the Damascus Road. Furthermore, Paul plainly stated that he believed the Law of Moses and the Prophets. They looked forward to the coming of the Messiah and Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled their prophecies.

Paul also explained that those prophecies described a Messiah who would come and suffer for the sins of His people. Messiah would even lay

down His life for the people of Israel. Because of His resurrection after death, Jesus of Nazareth was truly the Messiah of Israel and He proclaimed light and repentance for salvation by faith in Him alone.

Confidence

1. **King**. What confidence did Paul have in Agrippa? Paul was convinced that Agrippa knew what was going on regarding Jesus.
2. **Knows**. King Agrippa knew all about the matters Paul spoke about.
3. **Speak**. Therefore, Paul spoke to Agrippa as someone who was familiar with the matter before Paul spoke.
4. **Confidence**. Paul had confidence in Agrippa, born of the fact Agrippa was familiar with the events Paul described and with the Scriptures.
5. **Persuaded**. Paul was convinced that Agrippa was very familiar with the ministry of Jesus and His death and Paul's ministry.
6. **None**. Living holy in the family of God means that none of the things Paul talked about escaped the notice of King Agrippa.
7. **Corner**. We rejoice today because none of the things Paul talked about happened in a corner, but Paul boldly proclaimed Christ and his resurrection in Judea, Asia and Europe.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for allowing Agrippa to hear the story of Paul and his love for Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by showing people how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying the opportunities God presents to speak to powerful people in positions of authority about the Lord Jesus Christ.**

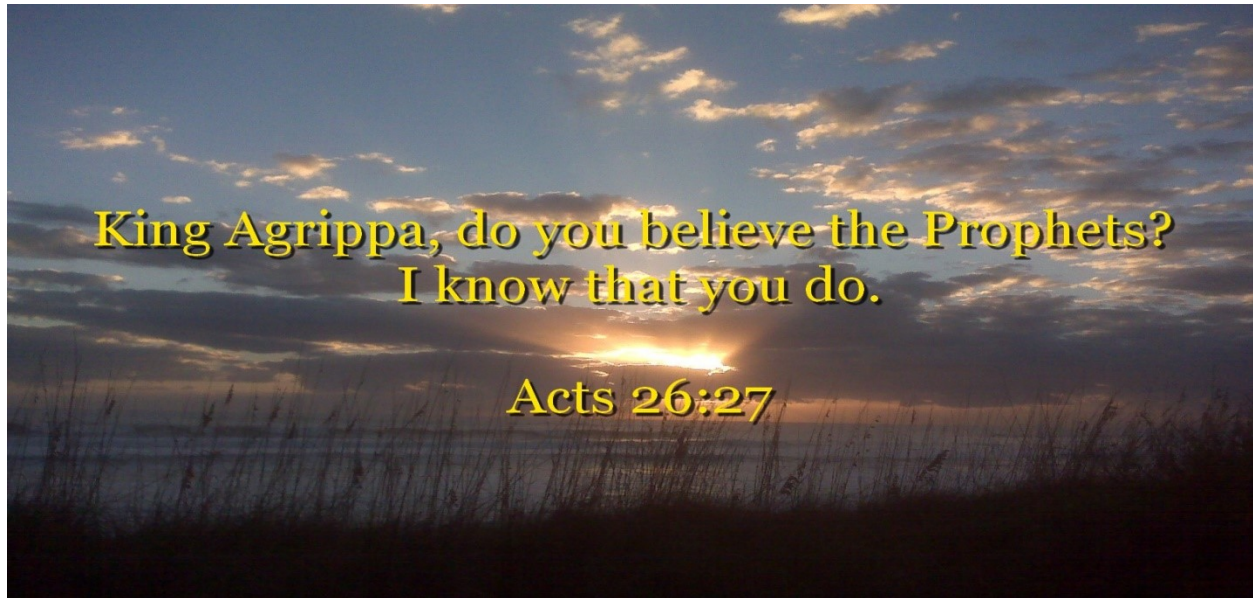
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon some people to be familiar with the story of Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking for Jesus before people in authority?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 927

Agrippa Today



How did Paul link up King Agrippa to the Prophets? Paul asked Agrippa if he believed the Prophets.

Paul did not represent a sect of Judaism, but the completely orthodox position of the Old Testament prophets. They looked forward to a Messiah Who was going to come and suffer first for the sins of His people with glory to follow. What Paul's Jewish accusers described as a sect was actually the truth of God expressed through Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah. In fact, his Jewish accusers were a sect of unbelievers, persecuting the Messiah and His children of faith.

As Paul connected with King Agrippa, he brought up the issue of faith. Paul asked King Agrippa if he believed in the Prophets. Paul had made his defense built in part upon the Old Testament prophets describing the Messiah. People could argue about a lot of things, but no one could deny the Old Testament prophets described the coming of Messiah. Paul, by the power the Holy Spirit at work within him, repeatedly proved that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the prophecies concerning Messiah and His resurrection from the dead.

Prophets

1. **King**. What did Paul ask Agrippa about his faith? Paul asked Agrippa if he believed the Prophets.

2. **Agrippa**. When Paul asked Agrippa the question, Paul already knew the answer.

3. **Believe**. Paul counted upon Agrippa believing the prophecies about the Messiah in the Old Testament.

4. **Prophets**. Paul was not opposing the prophets of the Old Testament, but he was embracing them.

5. **I**. Paul spoke in the first person to Agrippa, saying that I know about your faith in the prophets.

6. **Know**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul knew about the faith of Agrippa in the prophecies of the Old Testament and built upon that faith reach out to King Agrippa concerning Jesus and salvation.

7. **Do**. We rejoice today because Paul told Agrippa, “I know you do.”

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus, Whom the prophets spoke about in the Old Testament.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by using the Scriptures to prove to people that Jesus really was and is the Messiah of the Old Testament.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting the Scriptures to always tell us the truth about all things.**

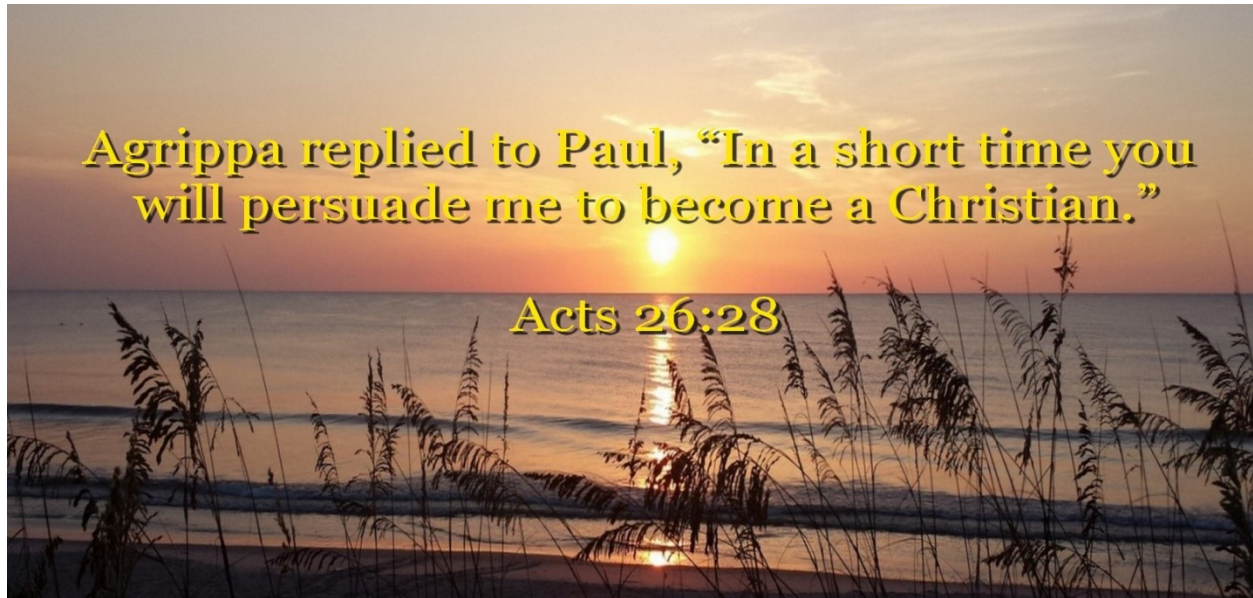
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the truth of the Scriptures concerning Jesus the Messiah. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reaching out to people who believe the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 928

Replied Today



How persuasive was Paul's defense? King Agrippa said that in a short time Paul would persuade him to become a Christian.

During his defense Paul had reached deeply into Agrippa's heart. The only question became what Agrippa would do with the Holy Spirit convicting him of the truth of the Scriptures concerning Messiah. In contrast to Festus who shouted out that Paul was mad, King Agrippa understood the spiritual significance of Paul's defense.

Paul did not offer his speech as merely a defense against the charges of the Jews. Just as Jesus had commissioned him to be His witness, so also Paul proclaimed the risen Savior, Jesus of Nazareth. Paul made his claims based upon the prophets of the Old Testament. Paul challenged Agrippa and everyone in the audience to believe what the prophets said. Clearly, Paul was not arguing for faith in a sect, but for faith in the Old Testament prophets themselves. The power of Paul's arguments did not rest upon human wisdom or intellect. Indeed, they rested upon the Old Testament prophecies concerning Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled all the prophecies about

Messiah coming and doing great things in the presence of men and then dying for their sins and being raised on the third day.

Persuade

1. **Agrippa**. How did Agrippa respond to Paul? Agrippa said Paul would persuade him soon to become a Christian.
2. **Paul**. Paul had a powerful effect upon everyone in the room.
3. **Short**. For Agrippa, Paul nearly persuaded him to become a Christian in a short time.
4. **Time**. The time for salvation will always be today.
5. **You**. Agrippa said to Paul that you almost persuaded me to become a Christian.
6. **Persuade**. Living holy in the family of God means that while Paul tried to persuade Agrippa to become a Christian, Agrippa heard the message without rejecting it out of hand.
7. **Christian**. We rejoice today because Paul wanted Agrippa and everyone else in that room to become a Christian.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the persuasive effect of Paul's defense upon Agrippa and others there.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon the Scriptures to persuade men about Christ as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by carefully building relationships, no matter how fleeting, with people who need to hear about the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

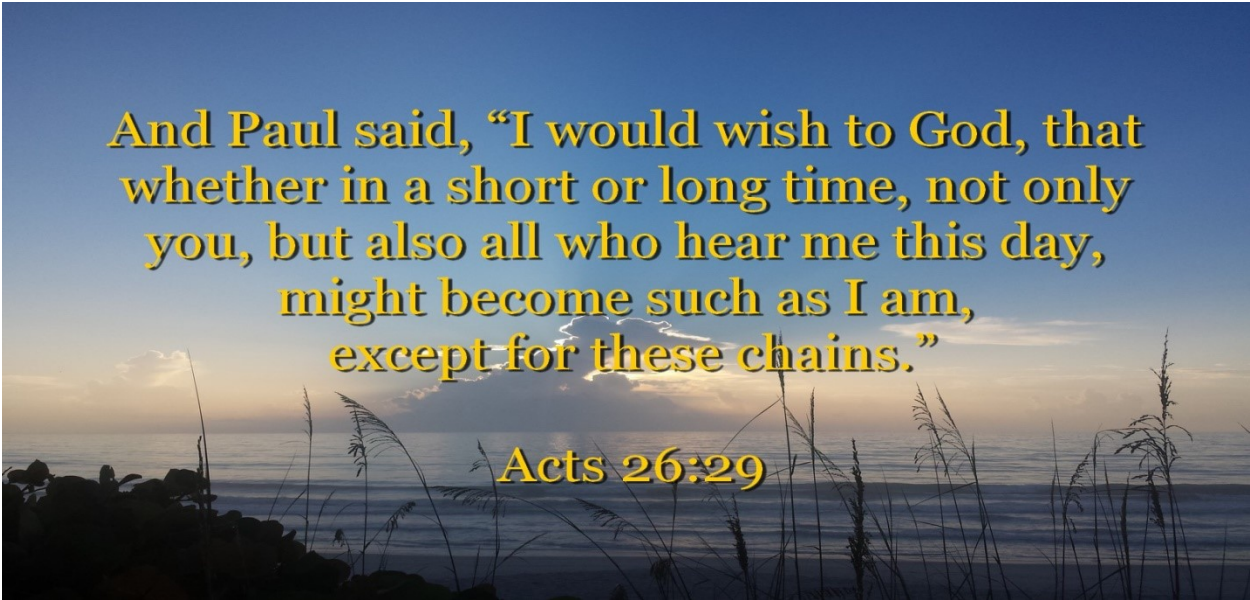
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sharing the Scriptures which speak of Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing Jesus from the Scripture, including the Old Testament and New Testament?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 929

Wish Today



And Paul said, “I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains.”

Acts 26:29

How did Paul respond to King Agrippa? Paul said that he wished to God that all who heard him, including King Agrippa, would become Christians like him, except for the chains.

Paul stood before King Agrippa and others in the auditorium chained up. Those chains stood as a reminder of Rome’s power over him. While he boldly proclaimed Christ to the audience, Paul was not concentrating his defense upon Roman law. Instead, Paul focused all the attention upon coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah.

King Agrippa acknowledged as much with his remark that he was close to being a Christian himself. The Holy Spirit was moving upon people in that auditorium through the words that He gave Paul to speak. Souls may have turned to Jesus Christ that day in the auditorium and found salvation as Paul stood before them in chains.

Paul stands a great example of what it means to serve Christ, even in chains. Nothing was going to deflect Paul from his obedience to the heavenly vision from Jesus. Jesus had appointed Paul to be His witness to kings and

others in authority. Paul would also testify to both Jews and Greeks that Jesus is the only Savior, and He has been risen from the dead to grant repentance to all those who turn to Him in faith.

Become

1. **Paul**. What did Paul wish? Paul wished that everybody in the range of his voice would become a Christian today.

2. **Wish**. Paul let Agrippa know about his wish too.

3. **All**. Paul wished whether it was a short time or long time that King Agrippa would come to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

4. **Hear**. Paul extended his wish to everyone in the room filled with dignitaries.

5. **Day**. Paul was keenly aware of all the people who heard that day.

6. **Become**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul wished that everyone within earshot would become a Christian, whether that day or later.

7. **Chains**. We rejoice today because Paul did not wish them to share his chains, but his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by wishing that the people who hear us present the Gospel will believe today.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by listening to people tell you about their reluctance to believe.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by helping them focus upon Jesus and the Scriptures to overcome their reluctance to believe.**

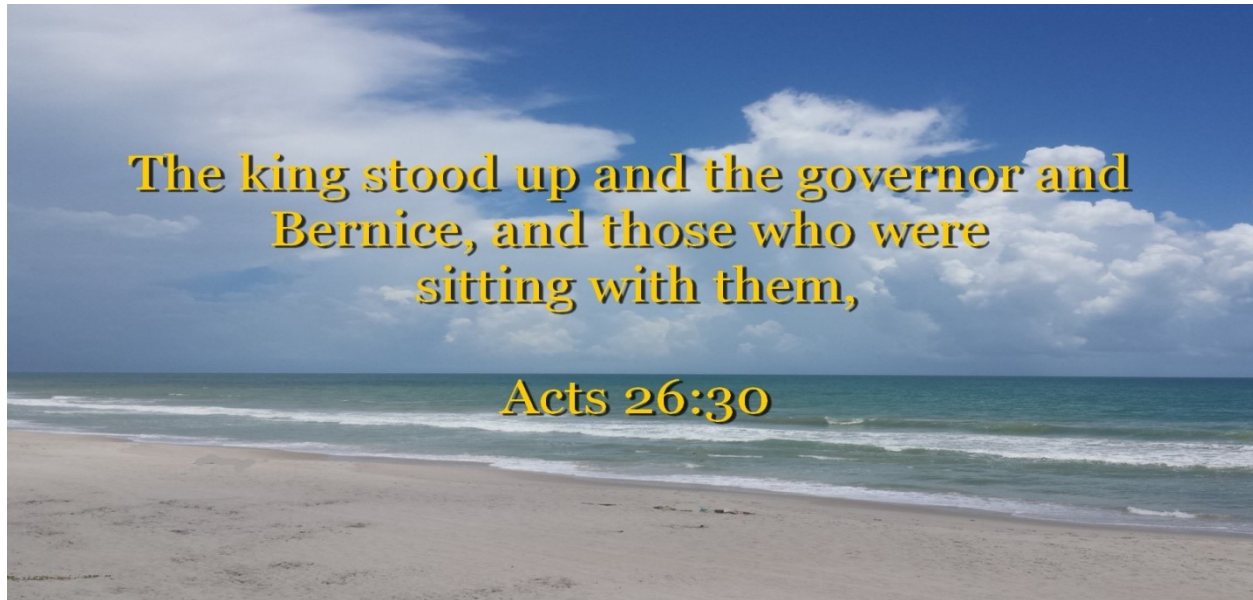
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by wishing that all people who hear about Jesus will become as we are, Christians. Will you live holy in the family of God today by letting people know that we wish they would become Christians?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 930

Stood Today



What did the king do after hearing Paul? King Agrippa stood up and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them.

Paul's defense was so powerful and moving that King Agrippa was moved to say that he could be convinced in a very short time to become a Christian. Paul responded that he hoped everybody in the auditorium would become a Christian like him, except for the chains.

Paul had been held in custody and now chained. Those chains served as a constant reminder to everybody in the auditorium that Paul was on trial for his life, but his defense was not centered upon saving his life, but proclaiming eternal life in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

More than two years earlier, Paul had been warned repeatedly that bonds and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem. Paul proclaimed that he was ready to even lay down his life for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was fulfilling the prophecies concerning him even as he spoke in Caesarea to the audience full of dignitaries, including a king and a governor. Jesus had appointed Paul to be His witness to the Jews and Gentiles and Paul

repeatedly fulfilled that prophecy with his testimony about Christ and His resurrection and offer of salvation by faith in Him.

Sitting

1. **King**. What did the king do after Paul's invitation to faith? King Agrippa stood up.

2. **Stood**. King Agrippa stood up because he had listened to Paul present his defense.

3. **Governor**. Governor Festus invited King Agrippa to hear Paul and then they stood up together.

4. **Bernice**. Likewise Bernice, the wife of King Agrippa, also stood up.

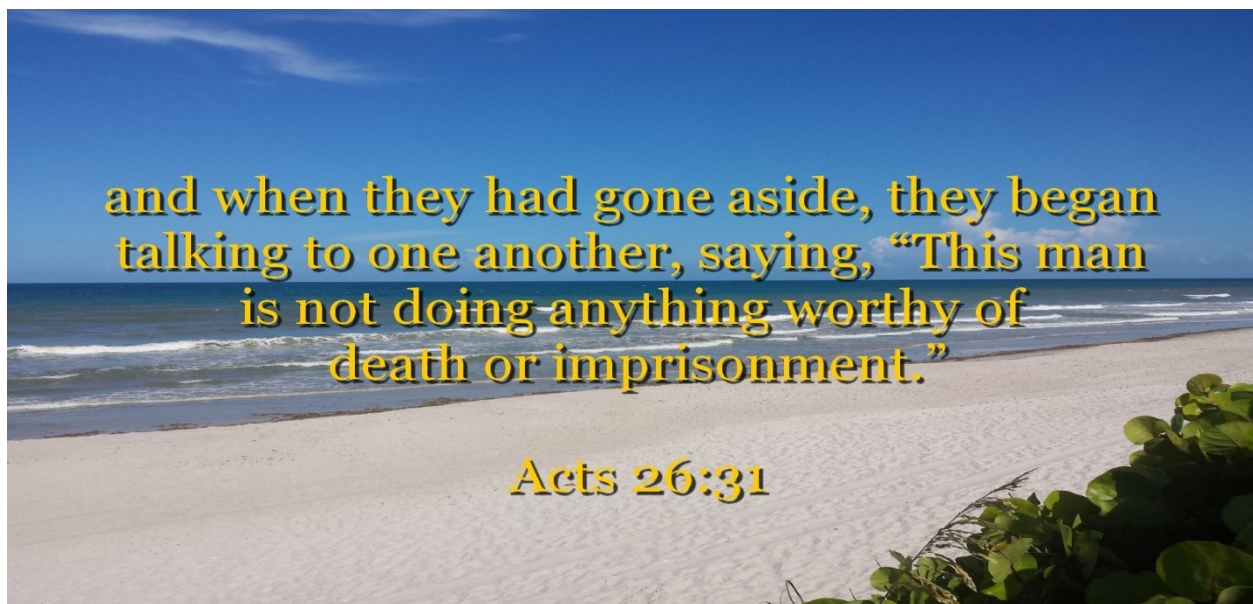
5. **Those**. Paul had reached out to everybody in the audience and those people sitting with King Agrippa also stood up.

6. **Sitting**. Living holy in the family of God means that people were sitting with King Agrippa and all of them needed to hear of Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because many important people were sitting with King Agrippa that day and they all heard him respond favorably to Paul.

Day 931

Aside Today



What did Festus and Agrippa agree upon? They agreed with each other that Paul had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death.

Paul delivered his defense before Festus, Agrippa, and many dignitaries. He skillfully explained how he had a vision on the Damascus Road and saw Jesus of Nazareth alive after crucifixion.

Paul also exposed his Jewish accusers as people who knew him very well. At one time Paul served those same people who commissioned him to persecute Christians. In fact, Paul was on his way to Damascus with a commission from the chief priests to imprison as many Christians as he could find in Damascus.

Festus interrupted Paul and said your great learning has driven you mad. King Agrippa declared that in a little while Paul would persuade him to become a Christian. Paul responded that he wished that all men would become like him, except for the chains binding him.

As Festus and Agrippa conferred among themselves, they both came to the same conclusion. Paul was innocent of all charges and had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death.

Talking

1. **Gone**. After they had gone aside, what did they say to each other? They said that Paul had done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment.

2. **Talking**. They continued talking among themselves about Paul.

3. **Saying**. They were saying that Paul had not committed any serious crimes.

4. **Man**. Paul's defense had captured the hearts and minds of his audience.

5. **Nothing**. Speaking among themselves, they concluded that Paul was guilty of no crime against Rome.

6. **Imprisonment**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul had convinced his audience that he had done nothing worthy of imprisonment.

7. **Death**. We rejoice today because Paul also convinced his audience that he should not be put to death.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering everybody standing up once Paul finished his remarks.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by realizing that the whole group basically stood up as one at the conclusion of Paul's defense.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that people were giving attention to Paul's defense and were moved by it.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by making our defense of our faith to people you want to know more about it. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul making his defense at Caesarea before the governor and a king and his wife?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 932

Might Today



And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

Acts 26:32

What did Agrippa say to Festus? He might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.

Agrippa and Festus both agreed that Paul had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death. Neither of them, however, was willing to release him from custody. Please recall that Paul had been held in custody for more than two years at Caesarea after his first court appearance there before Felix. At any time during that period Felix could have ordered his release, but chose not to, in part, to please the Jews.

Festus felt some political pressure from the Jews to kill Paul. Although Festus was not willing to kill Paul outright with a sentence of condemnation, he did try to get Paul to agree to go back to Jerusalem and stand trial before the Jewish court there. Of course, Paul knew that an ambush would probably be waiting on him, based upon his prior experience with the Jews.

While Festus and Agrippa paid lip service to freeing Paul, the reality was that Paul had appealed to Caesar and to Caesar he must go. Even so, the

Lord Jesus had already outlined to Paul that he would appear in Rome and testify for Jesus, just as he had done at Caesarea on repeated occasions.

Set Free

1. **Gone**. After they had gone aside, what did they say to each other? They said that Paul had done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment.

2. **Talking**. They continued talking among themselves about Paul.

3. **Saying**. They were saying that Paul had not committed any serious crimes.

4. **Man**. Paul's defense had captured the hearts and minds of his audience.

5. **Nothing**. Speaking among themselves, they concluded that Paul was guilty of no crime against Rome.

6. **Imprisonment**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul had convinced his audience that he had done nothing worthy of imprisonment.

7. **Death**. We rejoice today because Paul also convinced his audience that he should not be put to death.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul's defense convinced the audience that he had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul's beautiful defense did not result in his freedom.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for Paul's perfect defense and presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the audience.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for His plans that we speak as ambassadors of Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by fulfilling your role as an ambassador of Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

3

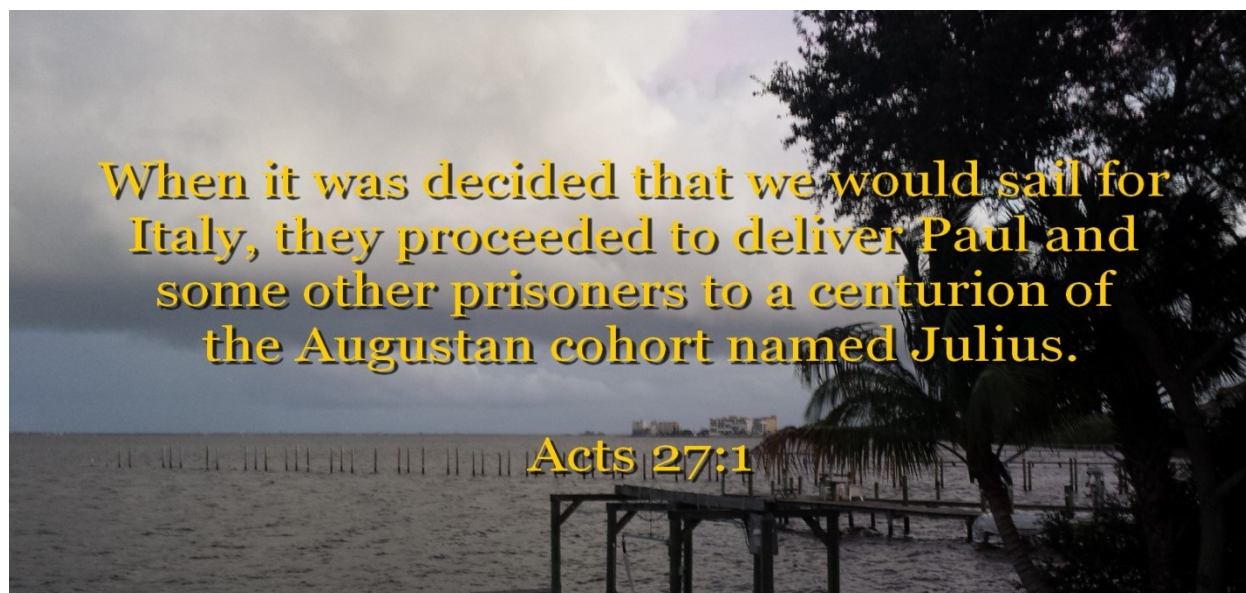
Rome

Bound Today

When the time came for Paul to sail to Italy, he and some other prisoners were delivered to Julius, a Roman centurion. They embarked on a ship and sailed to Sidon. Julius showed Paul consideration, allowing him to receive ministry from his friends. They continued their journey until they arrived at a place called Fair Havens where the ship captain and pilot persuaded everyone to continue the voyage, despite Paul's warning that all would be lost because of the peril of winter storms.

Day 933

Centurion Today



Who was Julius? Julius was a centurion in charge of the prisoners heading to Rome.

How was Paul going to go to Rome? Paul would travel by boat to Italy. As a prisoner of Rome, a centurion of the Augustine cohort named Julius was assigned to him. Other prisoners were also assigned to Julius. Julius had the obligation to make sure that all of his prisoners arrived in Rome safely or he may have to pay with his life for any escaped prisoner.

Paul had made many sea voyages as he traveled to Europe and Asia and then back to Jerusalem. Paul knew about day sailing and lengthy sailing. He had visited the island of Cyprus and sailed along the coast of Asia Minor, Macedonia and Greece.

The new voyage included being bound in chains. Paul had a clear understanding from Jesus that he was to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Rome. Jesus had commissioned Paul to be His witness to

testify to kings and governors and others in authority. Paul was not thinking about saving his life, but proclaiming eternal life to many people in authority. Paul had already seen that play out at Caesarea on multiple occasions. Paul had become an ambassador in chains for Jesus Christ.

Julius

1. **Decided**. How was Paul going to get to Rome? Paul would travel by sea.
2. **Sail**. Paul had extensive experience traveling by sea.
3. **Italy**. The time had come for Paul to sail to Italy so that he would see Caesar who would hear his appeal.
4. **Proceeded**. They proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion.
5. **Deliver**. They delivered Paul and the other prisoners to the centurion who would be in charge of guarding them and delivering them to Rome.
6. **Paul**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul fell under the care of Julius, the centurion of the Augustan cohort.
7. **Julius**. We rejoice today because Paul was now on his way to Rome as an ambassador in chains for Christ with Julius charged with delivering him there safely.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the details that Luke provided under the inspiration of God about the travel to Rome.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He gave us the names of so many people He sent into the life of Paul.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that the people God sends to us need to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

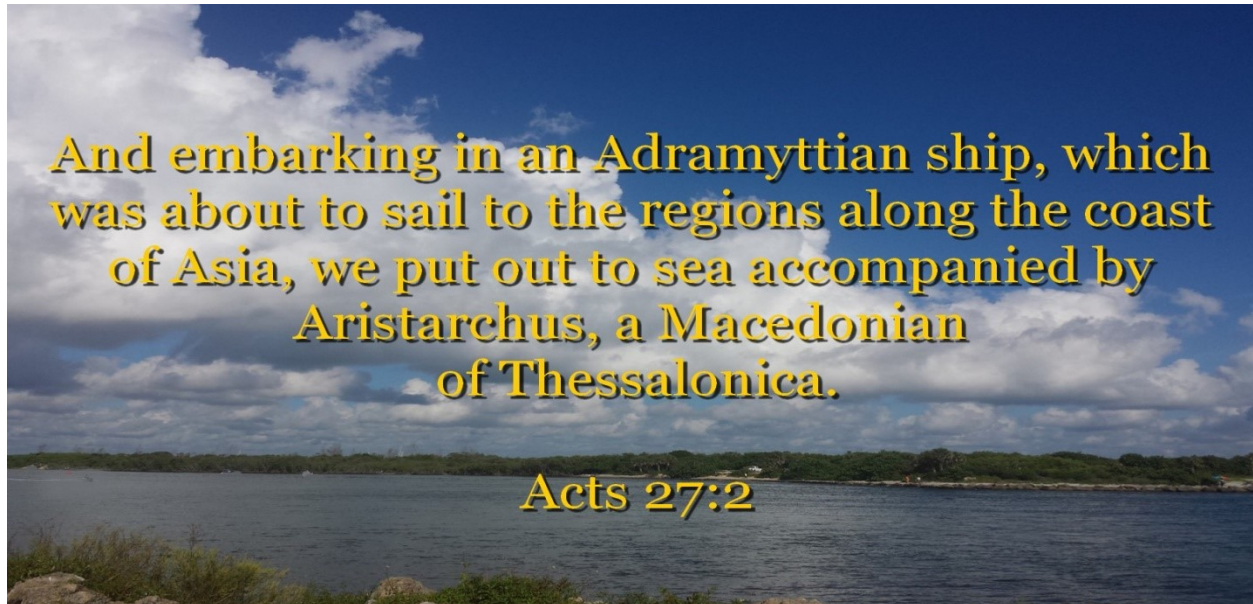
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to send forth His ambassadors, including those who have done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going where God sends you as an ambassador for Him?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 934

Embarking Today



Who accompanied Paul? Luke and Aristarchus accompanied Paul.

Paul sailed on an Adramyttian ship. The ship was from the seaport of Adramyttium, a city of Mysia in the Roman province of Asia. Paul was accompanied by Luke and Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica. Just as Paul was allowed visitors during his captivity in Caesarea, so also he had friends on board the ship with him.

The ship intended the sail along the coast of Asia. Just as Luke outlined the voyage to Jerusalem moving between islands and waypoints, so also the reverse trip to Rome included sailing along the coast of Asia. Luke took special care to describe the trips through the coastal regions.

Paul was once again on a mission for God across the Mediterranean. Paul had wanted to go to Rome, but not necessarily as a prisoner. He had spent considerable time in Macedonia and Greece, proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God had used him to plant churches in those areas, notwithstanding this fierce opposition from many Jews.

Accompanied

1. **Embarking**. After embarking upon the ship, what happened next? They put out to sea, intending to travel along the coast.
2. **Adramyttian**. The ship they embarked upon was from Adramyttium, a seaport in Asia near the island of Lesbos.
3. **Ship**. Paul had a lot of experience traveling by ship through the region.
4. **Sail**. Sailing along the coast was much easier and faster than traveling by road.
5. **Asia**. The boat followed a course along the coast of Asia.
6. **Sea**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul had begun his travel by sea to Rome as an ambassador in chains for Jesus Christ.
7. **Aristarchus**. We rejoice today because both Luke and Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, joined Paul on board the ship.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul setting sail as an ambassador in chains.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Julius, Aristarchus and Luke sailing with Paul, bound for Rome.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that some of His servants travel as ambassadors in chains as living testimonies of the power of Jesus Christ.**

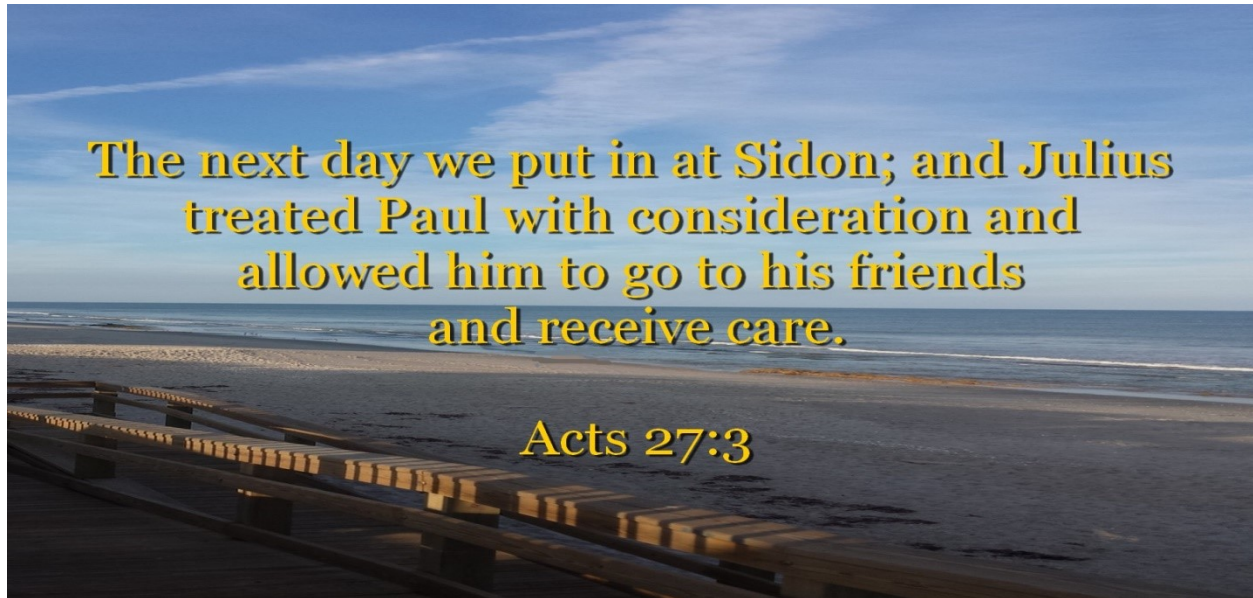
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the heroes of the faith like Paul traveling to Rome to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by providing comfort and support to people suffering for their faith?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 935

Sidon Today



What happened at Sidon? Julius allowed Paul to see his friends.

Julius proved himself helpful to Paul. Of course, Julius could not release Paul from custody, but he could allow Paul to visit with his friends. Those friends provided Paul with care. Wearing chains for a prolonged period of time probably caused Paul many problems.

Paul's friends also provided spiritual nourishment and fellowship. Just as Paul had provided strength to the elders at Ephesus and many other churches as he passed through their regions, so also Paul enjoyed the company of his spiritual friends. Paul not only received care, but based upon his history, he also exhorted the brethren.

Paul never lost sight of his mission. Jesus Christ commissioned the chief persecutor of the church to suffer many things for His Name. Paul did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision. Paul not only made his defense cheerfully before Festus, but he continued to bear testimony for Jesus Christ in court. Paul was such a persuasive speaker that King Agrippa said before long he would be persuaded by Paul to become a Christian.

Consideration

1. **Next**. What happened the next day? The ship arrived at Sidon.
2. **Sidon**. Sidon was another seaport north of Israel.
3. **Julius**. Julius the centurion had charge of Paul on the voyage.
4. **Paul**. He gave Paul special help on the voyage.
5. **Consideration**. Julius gave Paul special consideration which allowed him to go to his friends at Sidon.
6. **Friends**. Living holy in the family of God means that God blessed Paul so that Julius allowed Paul to get help from his friends in Sidon.
7. **Care**. We rejoice today because Paul had friends who administered and gave him care at Sidon.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the consideration that Julius showed to Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for friends who take care of prisoners and show them special care.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for helping Paul endure chains.**

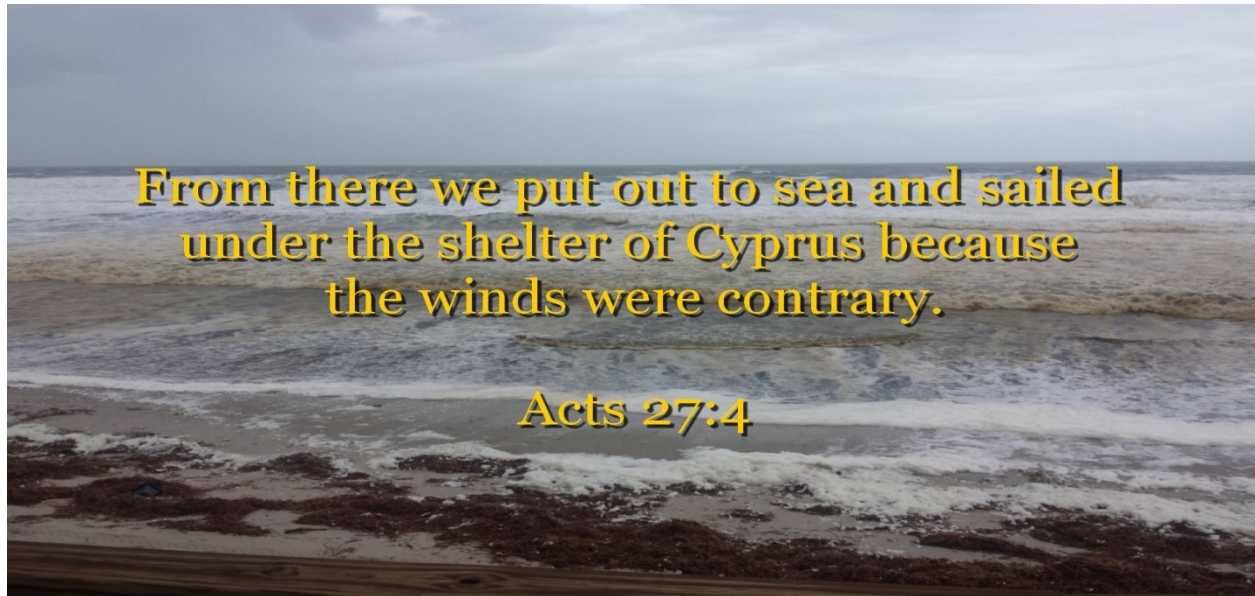
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the voyage of Paul to Rome under the care of Julius the centurion. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the people He sends in your life to take care of you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 936

Shelter Today



Where did the ship sail? The ship sailed under Cyprus because the winds were contrary.

Luke provided many details of the voyage. Writing under the inspiration of God, Luke provided a history of sea travel. He had previously chronicled the voyage to Jerusalem, including several waypoints.

Paul was now heading towards Rome. He was on board a ship with other prisoners and the centurion watching over them. The Lord Jesus had already told Paul that he would be going to Rome to be the witness for Christ there.

Paul left the Roman governor and King Agrippa and others behind at Caesarea. The Holy Spirit had told Paul before he ever came back to Jerusalem that he would suffer as a prisoner. Paul had now become an ambassador in chains for the Lord Jesus Christ. He was working his way through the Roman legal system. He appealed to Caesar and therefore had to travel to Rome for Caesar to hear his case. Before leaving Caesarea, the

uniform opinion among Felix, Claudia Lysias, Festus and King Agrippa was the Paul had done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death.

Winds

1. **From**. Having sailed from Sidon, where did they go? They sailed along the coast of Asia Minor.
2. **Sea**. The ship put out to sea.
3. **Sailed**. They sailed along the coast.
4. **Shelter**. By sailing under the shelter of an island, they could deal with winds that were not favorable.
5. **Cyprus**. They passed under Cyprus because of the winds.
6. **Winds**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul once again sailed past Cyprus, where he had visited previously.
7. **Contrary**. We rejoice today because contrary winds did not stop Paul from moving forward towards Rome on his journey for Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the details of Paul's voyage to Rome.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God recorded these details because He thought they were important.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by appreciating the historical details that God provided in the Bible about sea travel in the New Testament times.**

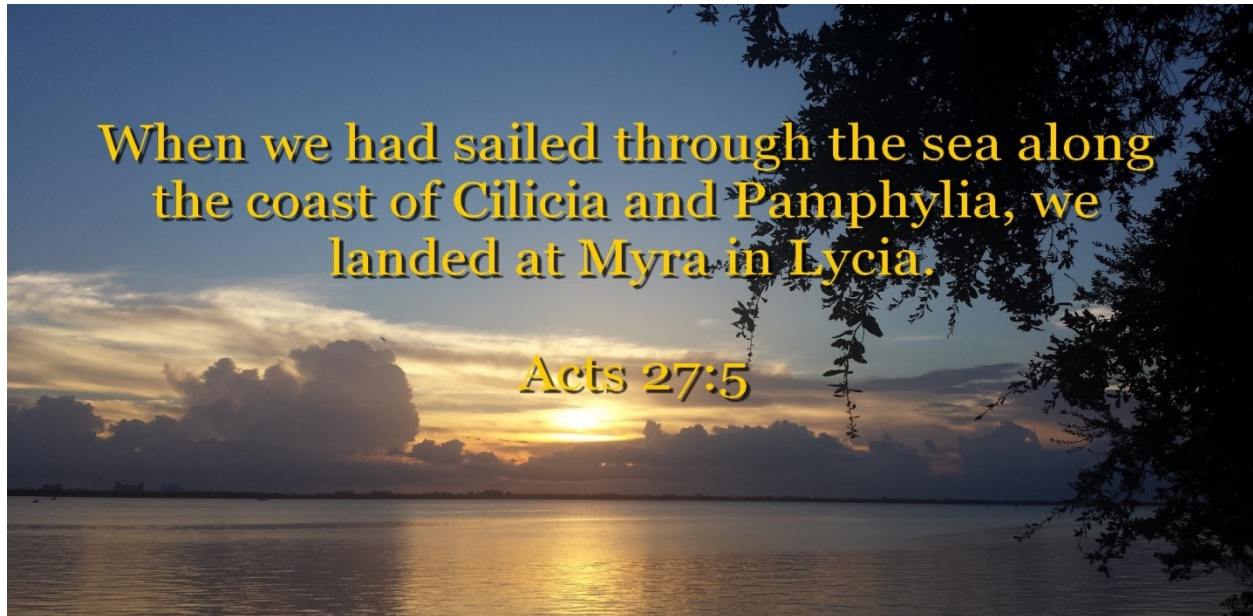
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God included the details of Scripture for our edification. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the details of sea travel on Paul's voyage to Rome?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 937

Sailed Today



What was the first waypoint for the ship? They landed at Myra in Lycia.

The ship had sailed along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia. Paul had sailed through those waters before. Now he was sailing through those waters as a prisoner of Rome in chains.

Paul never forgot that he was actually an ambassador for Christ, even when he was wearing chains. He was accompanied by his faithful physician Luke and Aristarchus from Macedonia. His traveling companions administered to his needs.

Paul had an appointment in Rome with the Emperor. In Caesarea Paul faced the choice of going back to Jerusalem and being tried by the Jewish court or appealing to Caesar in Rome. Paul chose the appellate route and so was heading to Rome as a prisoner of Rome.

Paul actually referred to himself as a prisoner of Christ. He had been warned that if he returned to Jerusalem, bonds and afflictions awaited. Jesus had already told him that he would be His witness before people in authority.

Landed

1. **Sailed**. Where did the ship sail? The ship began sailing up the coast of Asia.
2. **Sea**. They had put out to sea, but were following established trade routes.
3. **Coast**. As they traveled up the coast of Asia, they were heading towards Roman provinces Paul had visited before.
4. **Cilicia**. They passed by Cilicia.
5. **Pamphylia**. Paul had visited Perga and Pamphylia.
6. **Myra**. Living holy in the family of God means that God included very precise details about the voyage to Rome, including Myra, where the ship landed.
7. **Lycia**. We rejoice today because Myra of Lycia and Pamphylia were places where Paul had traveled previously sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and now he was being transported as a prisoner on the way to Rome.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul coming back to places he visited before, but this time under arrest.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never taking tomorrow for granted when you are sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the saints who suffer chains in imprisonment for the sake of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

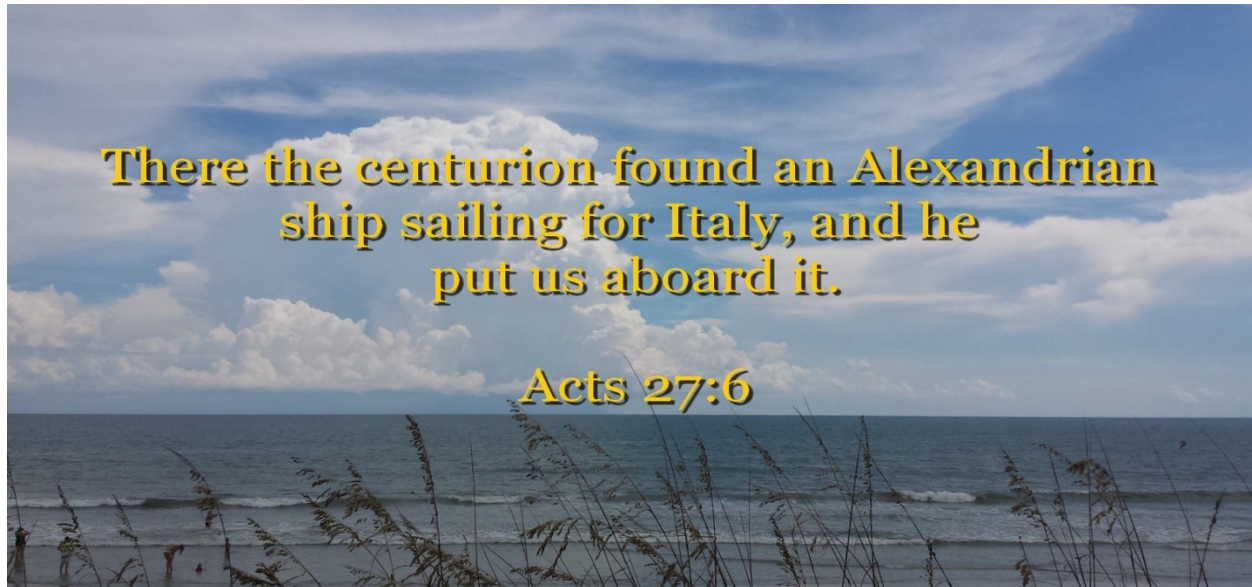
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Paul had proclaimed Jesus through all of Asia. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the courage of Paul as he traveled to Caesar?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 938

Centurion Today



Who was in charge of the voyage? The centurion arranged all the transportation.

At Caesarea Festus the governor appointed Julius the centurion of the Augustan cohort to deliver Paul to Rome. Julius had showed some kindness to Paul in letting him have enough freedom to see his friends and receive care at Sidon.

Julius found a ship heading for Italy. The group embarked on that ship and began the next leg of their voyage to Rome. This time they were sailing in an Alexandrian ship and would be passing through more dangerous waters.

Sailing in the New Testament world saved time, but also brought dangers. Navigation was not always easy and adverse winds could slow down a voyage tremendously. In addition, sudden storms could be a real danger to the boat and crew.

Jesus had stilled the storm on the sea of Galilee with His disciples. He could also sleep through storms that were flooding the boat. One time He walked on the water. Jesus had promised Paul that he would end up in Rome.

Aboard

1. **There**. Having arrived at Myra, there they needed to find a connecting ship to go to Rome.
2. **Centurion**. The centurion was quite capable of making arrangements for the journey.
3. **Found**. He found just the ship heading to Italy.
4. **Alexandrian**. An Alexandrian ship could accommodate him and his prisoners and take them to Italy.
5. **Ship**. Alexandria was all the way in Egypt and therefore, apparently, the ship had already traveled a long way from its home port.
6. **Sailing**. Living holy in the family of God means that sailing to Rome required many connecting points in several ships.
7. **Italy**. We rejoice today because Paul was going to Italy to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the journey Paul took to Italy, moving from place to place.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for saints like Paul who willingly proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ without backing down from serious opposition.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the sea voyage of Paul and the other prisoners and the centurion.**

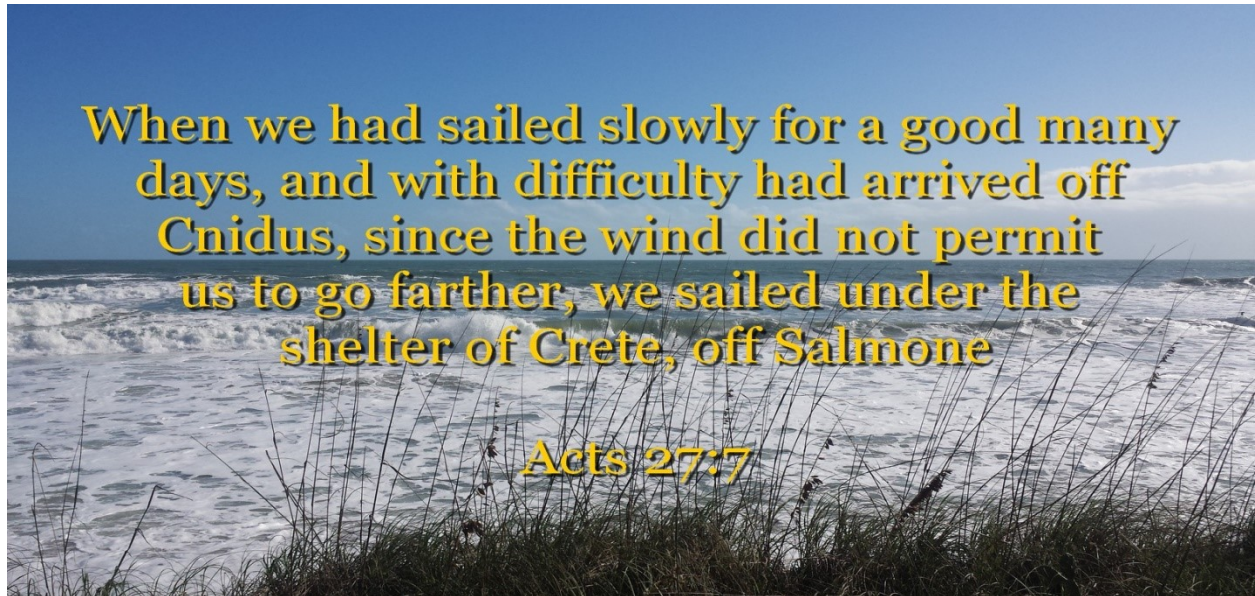
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that God can present opportunities in the middle of a sea to proclaim His Name. Will you live holy in the family of God today by recognizing opportunities that God sets before you to speak up for Him?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 939

Slowly Today



What did the ship do when the wind slowed down? They sailed slowly and arrived off Cnidus.

The wind often determined what the ship was going to do. Without wind the ship was not moving at all, except by the natural currents. The wind did not permit the ship to go beyond Cnidus. Therefore, they sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone.

The ship was bound for Italy. Many islands were scattered through the Aegean Sea. By sailing under the shelter of Crete, the sailors hoped to make better time to Rome.

Sailing in the New Testament world was a matter of wind, waves and navigation. So often the course depended upon the strength and direction of the wind. Adverse winds could seriously impede travel and require course changes. Julius still had to deliver Paul to Rome and had to trust the judgment of the sailors to get there. As a prisoner of Rome, Paul was bound to follow whatever Julius decided.

The ship sailed under the shelter of Crete, but even then, things could still go wrong. The winds could be very fickle at times and storms could come quickly.

Sailed

1. **Sailed**. What happened after they sailed away from Mira? They encountered light breezes.
2. **Slowly**. Without fresh breezes, the boat moved very slowly.
3. **Many**. They spent many days trying to reach their destination.
4. **Days**. All those days of traveling taxed the food and water on the ship.
5. **Difficulty**. With great difficulty they finally made it to the island of Crete.
6. **Cnidus**. Living holy in the family of God means that God recorded that Paul sailed under the shelter of Crete, but the winds did not permit them to go any further.
7. **Crete**. We rejoice today because God provided exact details of the voyage and its waypoints including passing Crete near Salmone.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the details of the sea voyage and the difficulties of travel in the days of Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that sea travel was probably quicker than going by land, but the winds could be very fickle.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the route of Paul heading towards Rome in a ship encountering difficulties.**

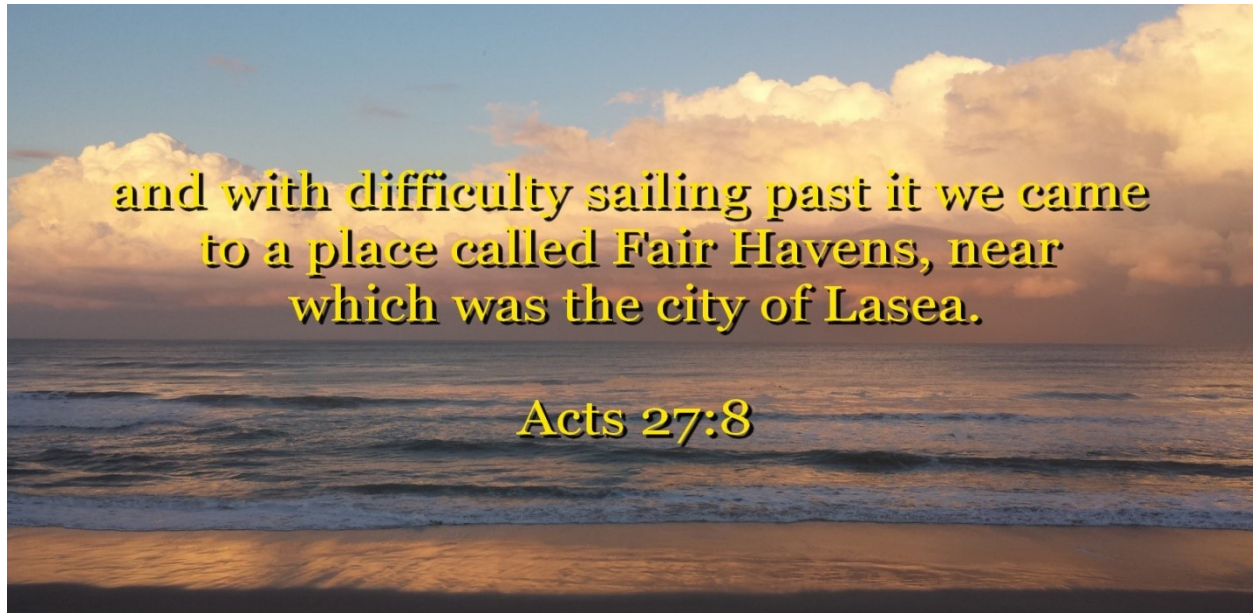
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that sea travel today has improved dramatically from the days of Paul heading to Rome. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the difficulties Paul encountered on his journey to Rome?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 940

Difficulty Today



Where did they go next? The ship came to a place called Fair Havens.

Fair Havens was near the city of Lasea on Crete. They had difficulty sailing past Crete, even though they were sheltering from adverse winds there.

Sailing often depended upon the seasons. Some trips were better taken in summer and some trips were better to take in winter. Wind directions and strength changed with the seasons. You never wanted to be caught in a serious storm far out at sea.

By making a stop at Fair Havens, the crew could have a rest and the captain and navigator could decide where they might want to go next. Sailing a straight course to Rome was not always possible. Furthermore, with winter storms approaching, sea travel became more treacherous.

Depending on the weather and the season, some ships were forced into harbors waiting for better weather. At times, that waiting could last many days or months.

Sailing

1. **Difficulty**. What difficulties did the ship encounter? It had a difficult time sailing past Crete.
2. **Sailing**. Being a large island, it took significant time to pass by Crete even with good winds.
3. **Past**. As the ship sailed past Crete, they were still looking for a place for safe harbor.
4. **Place**. The place they settled on would provide a temporary resting place.
5. **Fair**. They found Fair Havens on Crete, a place where they could hold up on their journey for a time.
6. **City**. Living holy in the family of God means that Fair Havens was near the city of Lasea on Crete.
7. **Lasea**. We rejoice today because Paul spent time in Fair Havens near Lasea, but the seasons were changing and danger approaching.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul going to Fair Havens by ship.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the difficulty of sailing past Crete.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He helps us get through difficulties as we serve Him.**

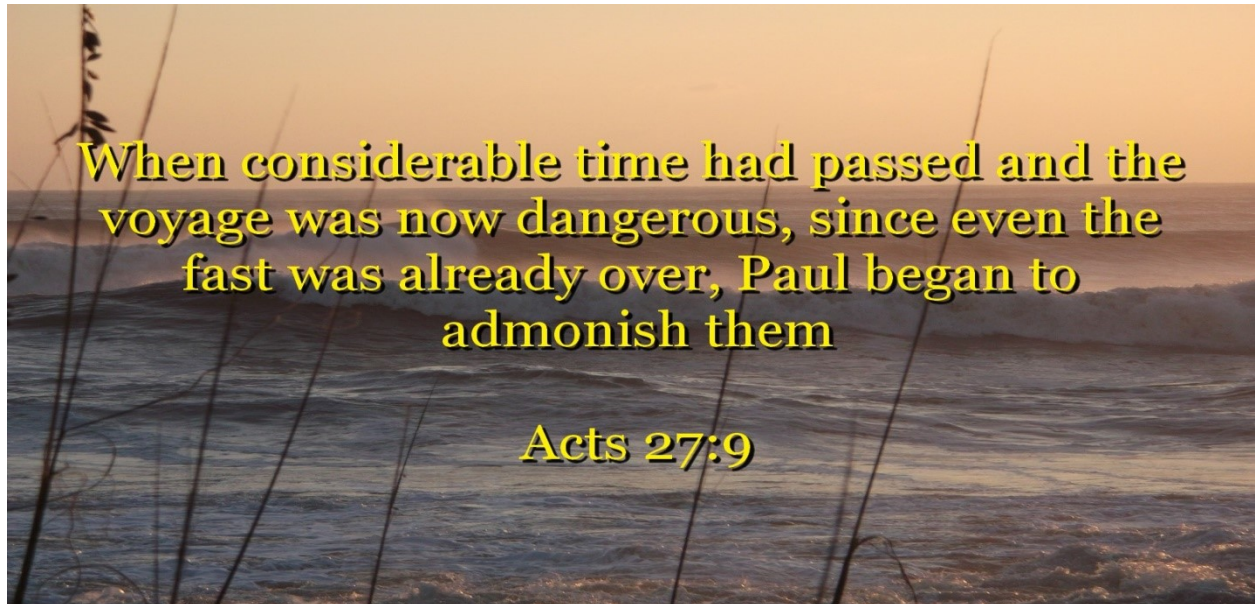
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul endured difficulties before he arrived in Rome. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting that some travel arrangements will not go as planned, even when you are serving the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 941

Dangerous Today



Why was Paul admonishing the sailors? He was concerned that the voyage was now dangerous.

Paul was on his way to Rome, pursuant to appealing to Caesar. Julius, the centurion, was in charge of Paul and other prisoners. He had arranged travel on an Alexandrian ship that was now stopped over in Fair Havens on Crete. They had a long voyage in front of them from Crete to Italy. Although the winds had been adverse to them, they had laid up in Fair Havens and now the season had changed.

Paul had experience on ships in the Mediterranean Sea. He understood that big storms could arise suddenly in the later parts of the year. Paul warned the sailors that the voyage was now dangerous. The fast may refer to the Day of Atonement, which normally falls in late September or October. Mediterranean storms increase from that period forward.

Paul tried to warn the sailors that it would be a problem to push on. While Fair Havens may not have provided the best of harbors for wintering, it certainly was a safer harbor than venturing across the sea into big storms.

Admonish

1. **Considerable**. Why was the voyage becoming more dangerous? The winter storms were drawing near because so much time had passed.
2. **Passed**. The voyage so far had been met with adverse winds and so the time had passed for smooth sailing.
3. **Voyage**. The sailors and passengers were all anxious for the voyage to conclude successfully.
4. **Dangerous**. Because of the passage of time, the voyage had become far more dangerous.
5. **Fast**. The time of the fast had also passed, indicating that the season had moved into the Fall months.
6. **Paul**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul had warned the crew.
7. **Admonished**. We rejoice today because Paul admonished the crew that danger had come and they should not sail farther.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking heed to the dangers before us when warned.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by being prudent in our decisions and avoiding hasty choices.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by paying attention to the times and seasons as we make choices.**

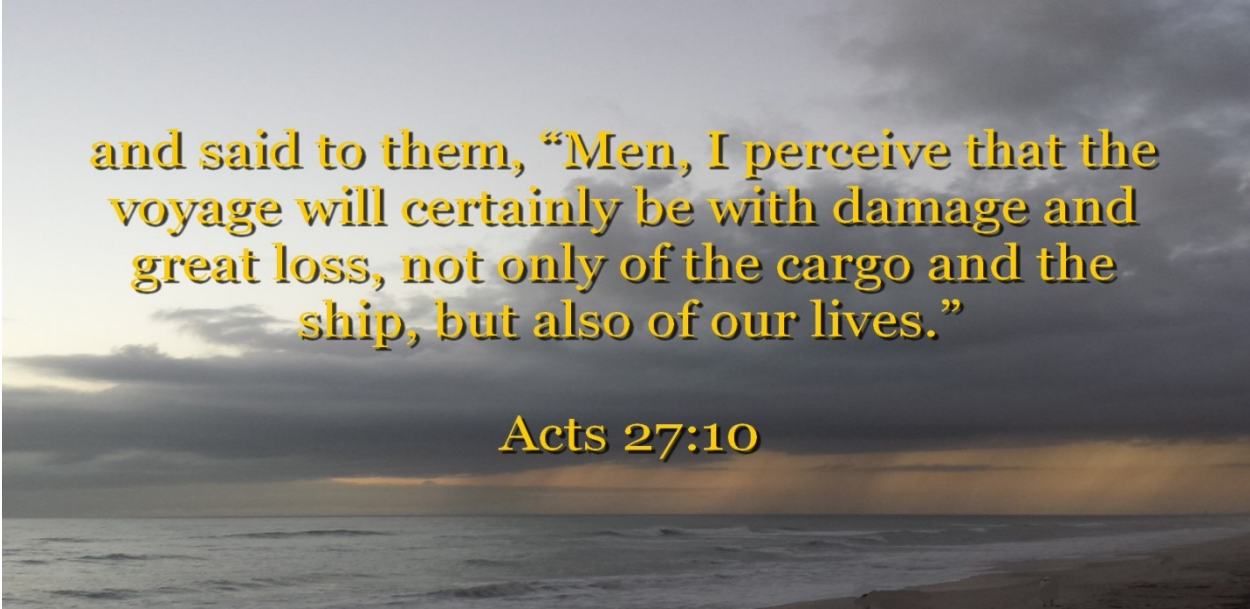
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by paying attention to times and seasons as we make choices. Will you live holy in the family of God today by giving heed to warnings as we make decisions about our voyages?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 942

Perceive Today



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

Acts 27:10

What specific prophecy did Paul make? Paul told the men that the voyage would be with great damage and great loss.

When the sailors determined that they would push forward with their journey and leave Fair Havens, Paul had a stern warning for them. Paul related to them that he perceived that the voyage would certainly be with damage and great loss. Not only would the cargo be lost, but also the lives of both crew and passengers would be endangered.

The crew did not know Paul and had no reason to trust him. Paul spoke based on his experience with traveling in the area and with the help of God. Just because Paul had been promised that he would appear in Rome does not mean that the crew and passengers would be saved.

Paul tried to warn the crew about sailing with the weather changing so quickly and the season growing late. Strong storms would be pushing through the area at any time. Those storms would pose a real danger to both crew and ship and passengers.

Damage

1. **Men**. What did Paul say to the men? He told them about the dangers facing them.
2. **Perceive**. He said that he perceived the danger before them.
3. **Voyage**. The voyage would cause them to suffer great damage.
4. **Damage**. Paul explained that the damage included several things.
5. **Loss**. They would suffer loss if they rushed forward seeking gain.
6. **Cargo**. Living holy in the family of God means that the cargo on the ship would be lost, despite Paul's warning.
7. **Lives**. We rejoice today because Paul warned the men that their lives would be lost if they pushed on towards Phoenix.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul's warning.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the risk of loss of life and cargo and the ship by hasty decisions.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by listening to wise counsel rather than following hasty directives.**

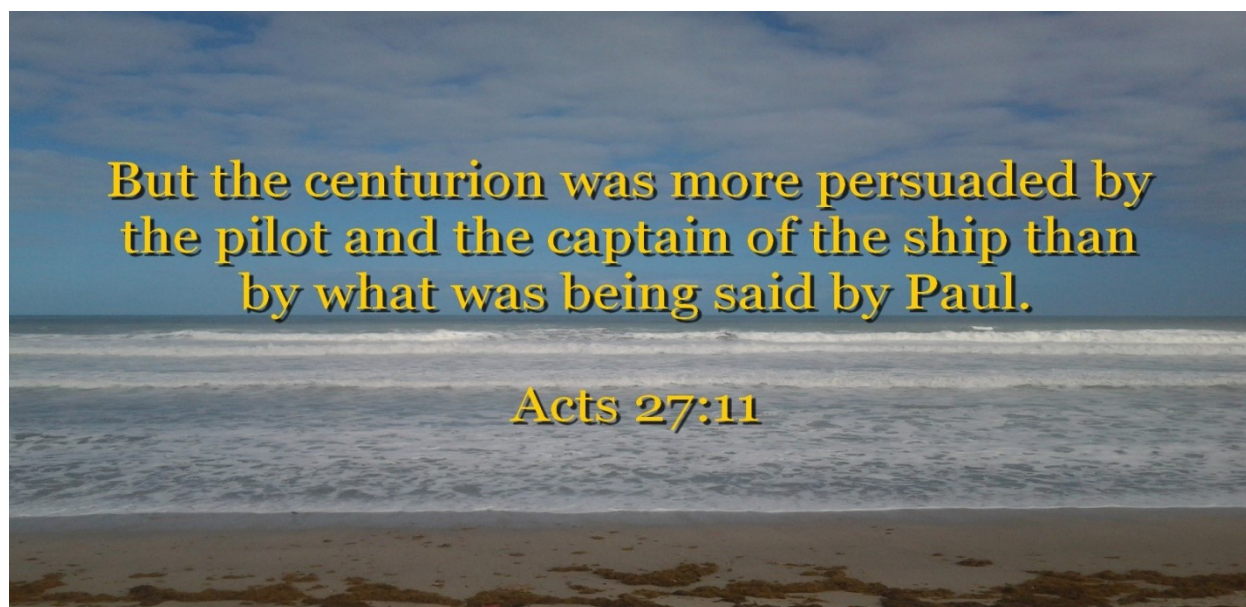
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to evaluate carefully so that we avoid shipwreck in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by paying close attention to the warnings that God gives to you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 943

Centurion Today



Who did the centurion listen to? The centurion listened to the navigator and captain of the ship.

The centurion, Julius, had a strong interest in getting the prisoners to Rome as quickly as possible. The longer he kept the prisoners in his custody the greater his risk remained.

The captain and the navigator did not like the Fair Havens harbor for wintering. They would prefer to get to a much nicer wintering port. They did not believe the risk was large enough to avoid travel. The sailors must have had experience with storms before and determined that the risk was worth taking.

Paul spoke to Julius about the trouble. Julius carefully considered what Paul said, but had more confidence in the navigator and captain of the ship. Julius did not yet understand that Paul had supernatural insight into what awaited them. Julius would soon change his mind about Paul.

Paul spoke about the future and warned of dire consequences for sailing now. While the boat certainly was going to leave Fair Havens, the only question would be if Paul and the prisoners would be on the ship.

Persuaded

1. **Centurion**. How did the centurion decide what to do? He listened to the sailors.
2. **Persuaded**. Julius was persuaded by the sailors.
3. **Navigator**. He listened to the navigator, a person familiar with the charts and weather of a particular locality.
4. **Captain**. He also listened to the captain of the ship.
5. **Than**. Julius did not pay heed to the warning of Paul.
6. **Paul**. Living holy in the family of God means that Julius chose to listen to people other than Paul and would suffer the consequences.
7. **Said**. We rejoice today because Paul said the right thing in warning the sailors not to proceed and leave Fair Havens.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Julius listened to the navigator and the captain.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the “experts” are not always right.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide guidance as we move forward.**

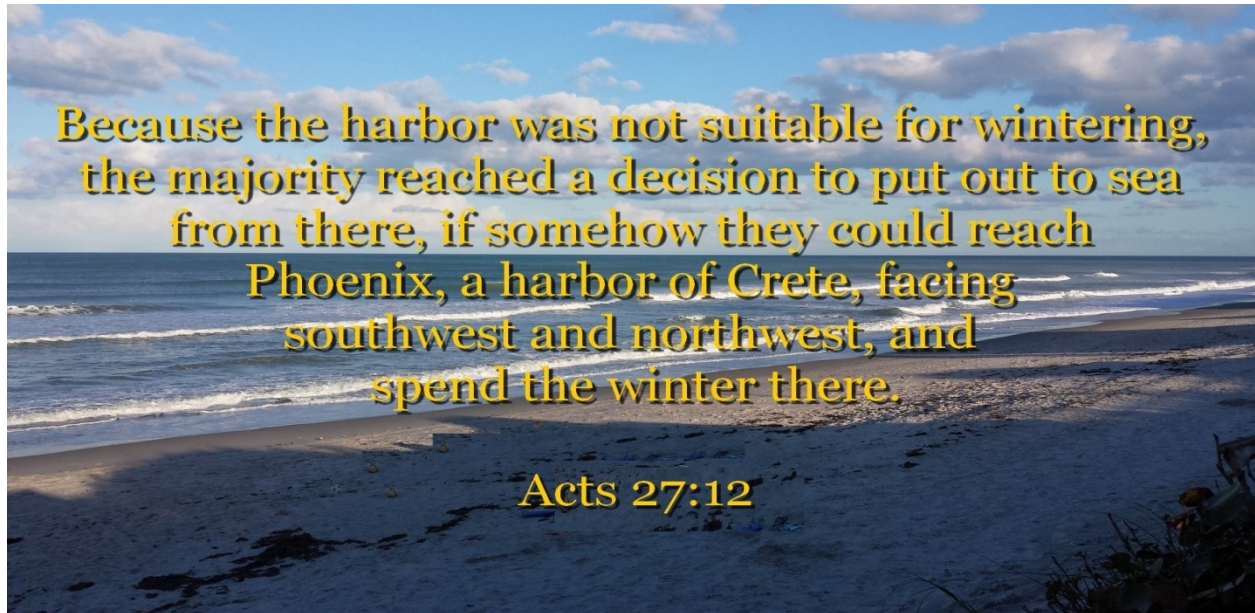
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by following the leading of God and not men. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the things that God tells you to guide your path?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 944

Majority Today



Why were the sailors so anxious to leave Fair Havens? The harbor there was not suitable for wintering.

The majority reached a decision to put out to sea and try to reach Phoenix. Phoenix, a harbor on Crete, had the advantage of facing Southwest and Northwest. Because of its orientation, it would be suitable for wintering through bad storms. The majority concluded that they could spend the winter safely in Phoenix, provided they did not meet a terrible storm on the way to Phoenix.

The majority did not discount the possibility of a bad storm before they reached Phoenix. They concluded, however, that staying in Fair Havens opened them to being battered all winter by big storms. They found that option far less attractive than trying to make Phoenix before they caught a large storm.

They hoped for the best and put out to sea, despite Paul's warning. He specifically warned them that their crew, passengers and vessel with its cargo

would all be lost if they ventured forth. Even so, the majority decided to move on and sailed for Phoenix.

Phoenix

1. **Wintering**. Why did the majority want to leave Fair Havens? The harbor there was not suitable for wintering.
2. **Majority**. The majority got together and reached a decision.
3. **Sea**. Having decided, they put out to sea.
4. **Reach**. They hoped they could sail close to shore and reach their destination.
5. **Phoenix**. Their goal was to somehow reach Phoenix.
6. **Crete**. Living holy in the family of God means that the sailors thought they would find safe harbor for the winter in Phoenix, a harbor of Crete.
7. **Winter**. We rejoice today because Paul warned of disaster awaiting them, even if his warning went unheeded, because they wanted to winter in Phoenix, a harbor facing Southwest and Northwest, suitable for wintering.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering moving forward may be moving towards destruction at times.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by giving heed to God directing us to stay put.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by recognizing that moving may be losing at times.**

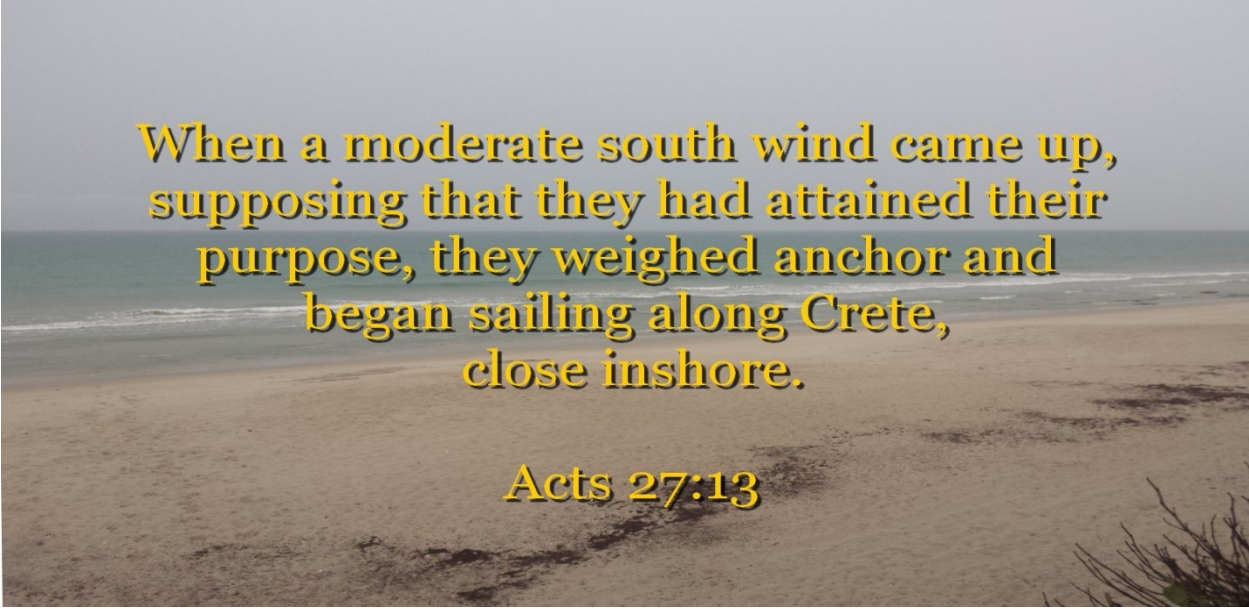
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never giving up on people, even when they did not accept a warning. Will you live holy in the family of God today by hanging in there with people who did not listen to the warnings you give them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 945

Supposing Today



When a moderate south wind came up,
supposing that they had attained their
purpose, they weighed anchor and
began sailing along Crete,
close inshore.

Acts 27:13

When did the sailors decide to sail? A south wind arose and they thought they could make it to Phoenix.

Having thought they attained their purpose, the sailors weighed anchor and began sailing along the coast of Crete. They stayed inshore, sailing close to Crete, heading towards Phoenix. As they traveled along, they were sailing against Paul's advice and warning.

Paul knew he was going to Rome and would appear before Caesar. Paul also knew that the ship was in great danger. The entire crew and vessel and cargo and passengers were all at risk. If a large winter storm came their way, they would be driven before the wind and battered by the waves. They would have no control over their destiny once caught up in the storm.

Paul understood the danger before them, but the majority outvoted him and sailed away from Fair Havens. Paul, under custody of Rome, was compelled to go with them. Because he had warned them, all the risk fell upon them for their decision to ignore Paul.

Purpose

1. **Moderate**. Why did the sailors put out to sea? A moderate wind arose from the right direction and caused them to sail.
2. **South**. The wind from the south convinced them they could proceed against Paul's warning.
3. **Supposing**. They said were supposing they could make Phoenix.
4. **Attained**. They thought the South wind meant they had attained their purpose.
5. **Purpose**. Their purpose was to reach Phoenix, a harbor safer for wintering.
6. **Sailing**. Living holy in the family of God means that while the sailors thought by sailing close to shore they would be safe, they would have done better to listen to Paul and heed his warning from God.
7. **Close**. We rejoice today because sailing close to shore never replaces sailing with God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the sailors thought they would attain their purpose with the South wind.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never trusting anyone above God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide all that we need when we need it according to His mercies and grace.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in God's directions, even when they conflict with "professional" advice. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God and His word above all else?

HALLELUJAH!

4

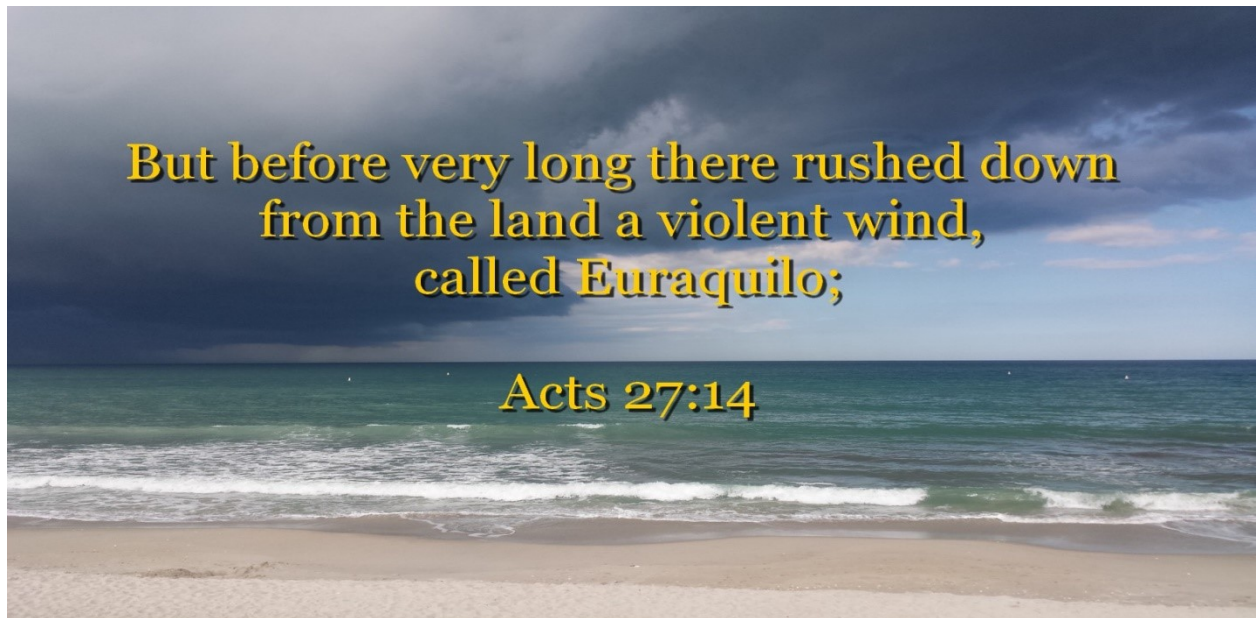
Shipwreck Today

As the ship sailed away from Fair Havens, despite Paul's warning of disaster, they had not gone far when they violent wind grabbed the ship and began to drive it with the full fury of a winter storm. For two weeks the storm battered them and everyone on board began to give up hope of survival. During the storm, Paul received a revelation from an angel indicating that the ship would be lost, but everybody on board would survive. Soon afterwards, the s sailors saw land and tried to make landfall on a beach, but hit a reef instead. As the ship broke apart, the soldiers sought to kill all the prisoners on board, so they would not forfeit their own life if one escaped. Julius prevailed upon them and all the prisoners made it to the land safely, along with everybody else on board, just as the angel had prophesied. The ship was a total loss.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 946

Rushed Today



What happened after they set sail? Euraquilo came calling.

Sailors in this part of the Mediterranean called the violent wind coming off of Crete Euraquilo. The ship encountered this violent wind from Crete not long after sailing from Fair Havens.

Paul had warned the sailors that sailing would bring destruction. He said they would lose the crew, passengers, cargo and ship. In short, if they sailed out of Fair Havens, they would all suffer total loss. Notwithstanding his warning, Julius agreed with the majority to sail away.

Julius was more persuaded by the captain and the navigator. They certainly must have understood the risk, but they deemed staying in Fair Havens for the winter even more risky. Therefore, with the South wind blowing they left Fair Havens.

They sailed straight into Euraquilo. With the wind coming straight off the land and with violent force, the Alexandrian ship was forced out to sea, and then driven before the waves. They began to travel with the storm far away from their destination and without any ability to steer their own course.

Wind

1. **Before**. What happened before long? A violent rushing wind came down from the land.
2. **Rushed**. That wind rushed upon the ship.
3. **Down**. As the wind rushed down upon them, the soft South breeze they had sailed under was quickly replaced by a strong, violent gale force wind.
4. **Land**. It swept down from the land and engulfed the ship.
5. **Violent**. The violent wind spelled extreme trouble for the ship, cargo and occupants.
6. **Wind**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the wind rushing with great violence upon the ship carrying Paul to Rome.
7. **Euraquilo**. We rejoice today because Paul had warned everyone about the dangers of leaving Fair Havens and now the violent wind, called Euraquilo, had swept them up.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the arrival of Euraquilo.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by recognizing that God warned the crew of the ship about destruction coming if they left Fair Havens.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by heeding God's warnings.**

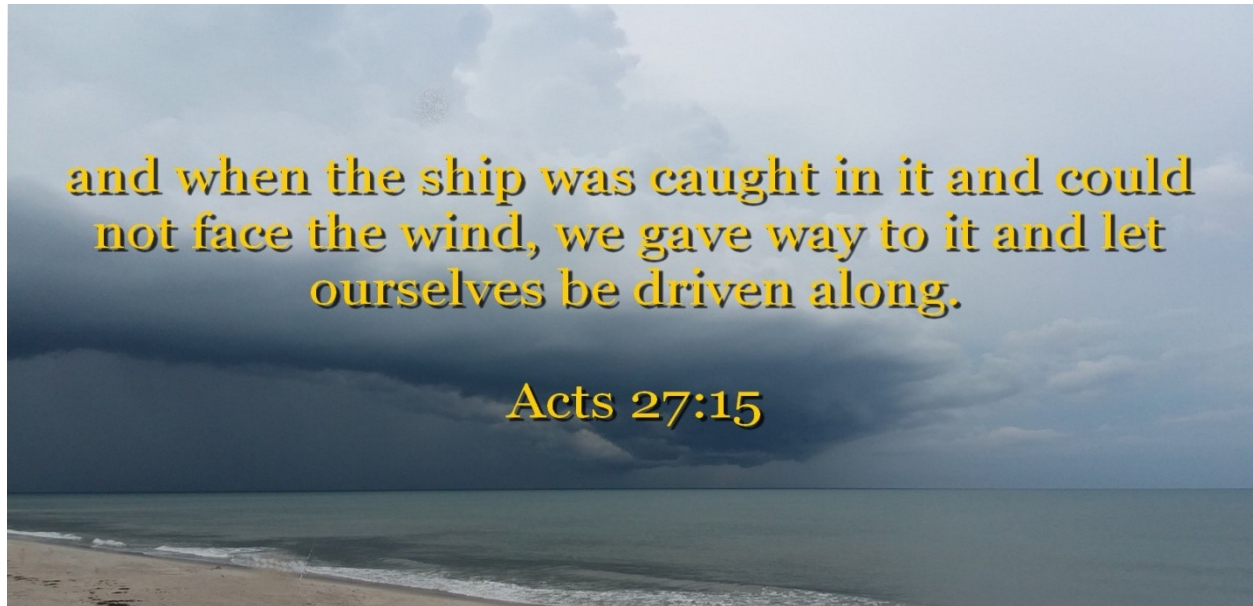
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening to God instead of facing Euraquilo. Will you live holy in the family of God today by staying safe in Jesus rather than facing violent winds in your life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 947

Caught Today



What did what sailors do in the face of the wind? They let the ship be driven before the wind.

Because the wind was coming off Crete with violent force, the sailors were unable to control their ship. Therefore, they could not face the wind. They made a deliberate choice in the midst of the storm to let themselves be driven by the sea and the wind. They were now going where the storm was going and they would be staying in the storm much longer.

All hopes of reaching Phoenix soon were driven away by the strong and violent wind. Paul's words of warning rang ever louder above the screeching gale. The ship and its cargo and passengers and crew were all at risk because of the violent storm raging about them.

Paul alone understood the gravity of the situation. The first warning he provided said that all the souls on board would die. Yet, Paul knew that the Lord Jesus had said he would appear in Rome. Rather than listen to the captain and navigator, Paul relied upon his insight from God and gave an

appropriate warning not to leave Fair Havens. The majority outvoted him and the ship was now paying the price.

Driven

1. **When**. What did the sailors do when the wind caught them up? They gave way to the wind.
2. **Ship**. The ship was caught in the violent grasp of Euraquilo.
3. **Caught**. The winds held them tight.
4. **Face**. They were unable to overcome the wind and could not sail against the wind.
5. **Wind**. The wind now controlled the ship.
6. **Gave**. Living holy in the family of God means that the sailors gave way before the wind, knowing they could do nothing else but let the storm take them wherever it willed.
7. **Driven**. We rejoice today because as they were driven by the storm and waves, they were driven along with the storm and caught up in it.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Euraquilo was the new captain of the ship, driving it where it willed.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God ultimately controls the weather.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering to how powerful the storm was and caught up everyone on board, including Paul.**

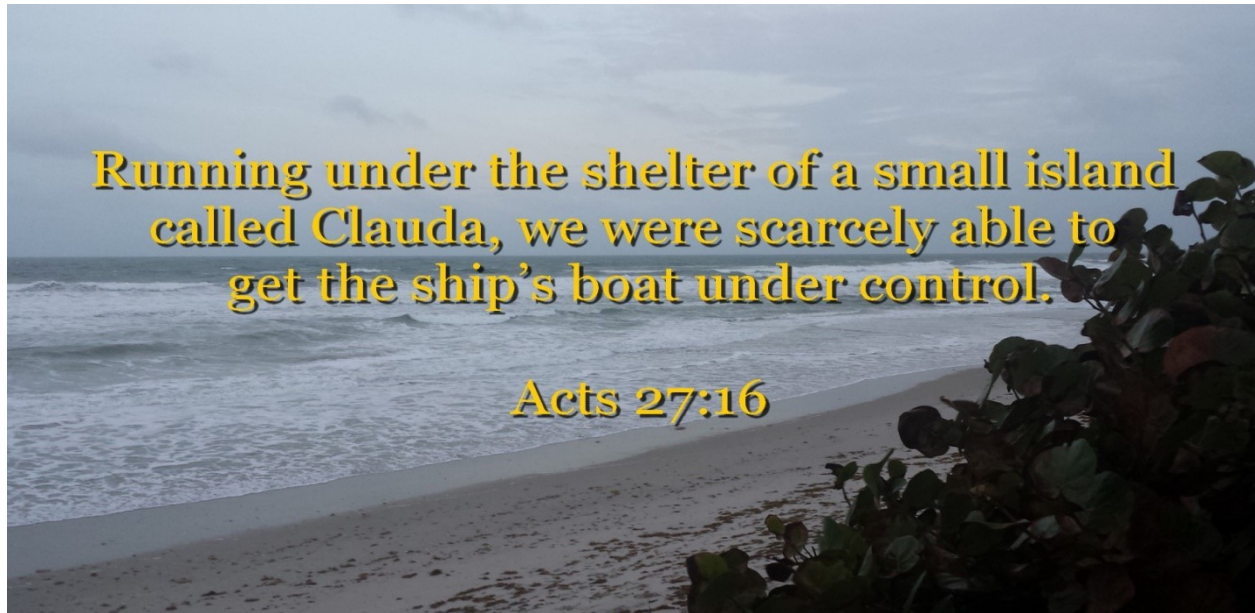
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus who protects us from the storms of life because He covers us with His hand and His Father's hand also covers us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking Jesus for His protection during the storms of life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 948

Shelter Today



What happened at Claudia? The crew managed to get the ship under control briefly.

As the ship sped along before the rushing wind, the crew spotted an opportunity to gain some control over the vessel by dipping behind the small island of Claudia. Even with the island providing some relief from the wind and waves, the sailors could barely keep the ship under control.

The sailors knew they were in for a monumental struggle with Euraquilo. This violent wind, rushing off the land, had already imposed its will upon the ship. They were racing away from their intended destination. The sailors also knew they were facing a new set of problems. Any time they approached an island, or a chain of islands, the threat of running aground and being destroyed by the waves grew immensely.

At some point, the ship may have launched a boat and tried to find some protection from the storm with anchors placed near the island of Claudia, an island about seven miles long and three miles wide. They were not able to keep the boat under control and so abandoned that plan. They

were still running before the storm and without a clear plan of how to get out of the storm and survive.

Clauda

1. **Running**. Where was the ship running? The ship was running under the shelter of a small island not far from Crete.

2. **Under**. As they ran into the shelter of that small island, they were hoping to gain some control over the ship.

3. **Clauda**. The small island was named Clauda.

4. **Scarcely**. The crew scarcely managed to gain some control over the ship.

5. **Able**. Although it was a struggle, they maintained minimal control.

6. **Ship**. Living holy in the family of God means that Euraquilo had driven the ship and now fought to control it, despite the best efforts of the crew.

7. **Control**. We rejoice today because the ship and the crew were under the control of the wind and waves and sea, with a storm driven by Euraquilo.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by fighting for control of our lives as the storms of life rage around us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul on board the ship caught in the storm, knowing the whole time that he had warned them about this very thing.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God, even when others ignore His warnings.**

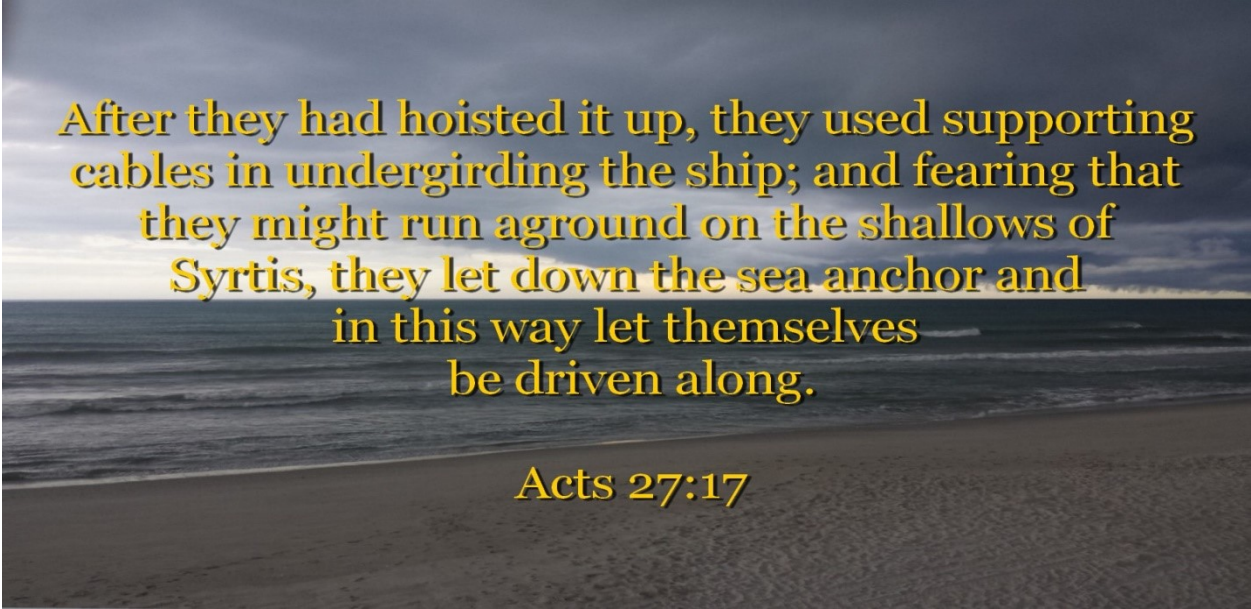
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to help us put our lives under His control. Will you live holy in the family of God today by feeling His control over your life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 949

Fearing Today



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 in this way let themselves be driven along.

Acts 27:17

Why did they use supporting cables? The crew placed supporting cables underneath the boat's hull to provide extra support in big waves and high winds.

Extreme forces could cause the hull members of the boat to be displaced, allowing water to flow into the ship. Maintaining the structural integrity of the ship was a top priority. The sailors began to fear that they might run aground near Syrtis, sandbars off the northern coast of Africa. The ship had left Claudia behind.

The crew let down the sea anchor. Typically, sea anchors act like a drogue through the water. They are like a giant cup that slows the ship down so that it does not travel as fast as the wind. The downside is whatever place you attach the sea anchor to on the ship, that places the ship pointing into the wind. Depending upon the sea state, that can be a very hard choice. Running aground and being torn apart by the waves would always be a worse choice.

The sailors really had no other choice but to be driven along by the wind. As they moved with the storm, the ship was under constant battering and flooding waves. Life on board the ship had become perilously difficult.

Shallows

1. **Hoisted**. What happened after they hoisted the boat aboard? They took other precautions to save the ship.

2. **Cables**. They placed cables under the hull.

3. **Undergirding**. Undergirding the hull reinforced the structural integrity of the individual members.

4. **Fearing**. Because they were being driven along by the wind, they feared running aground.

5. **Aground**. Running aground meant that part of the boat would not move because it was stuck tightly on the sand, while large waves smashed the ship to pieces.

6. **Syrtis**. Living holy in the family of God means that secular maritime historians described the sands of Syrtis off North Africa as a sailor's grounding nightmare.

7. **Anchor**. We rejoice today because the sailors deployed a sea anchor to slow their progress and establish a bit of control over the ship while the storm continued to drive them along its path.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sailors taking many steps to avoid destruction.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering also that Paul warned of destruction before the majority decided to sail away from Fair Havens.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for His mercies in helping us during storms we decided to sail into against His plans.**

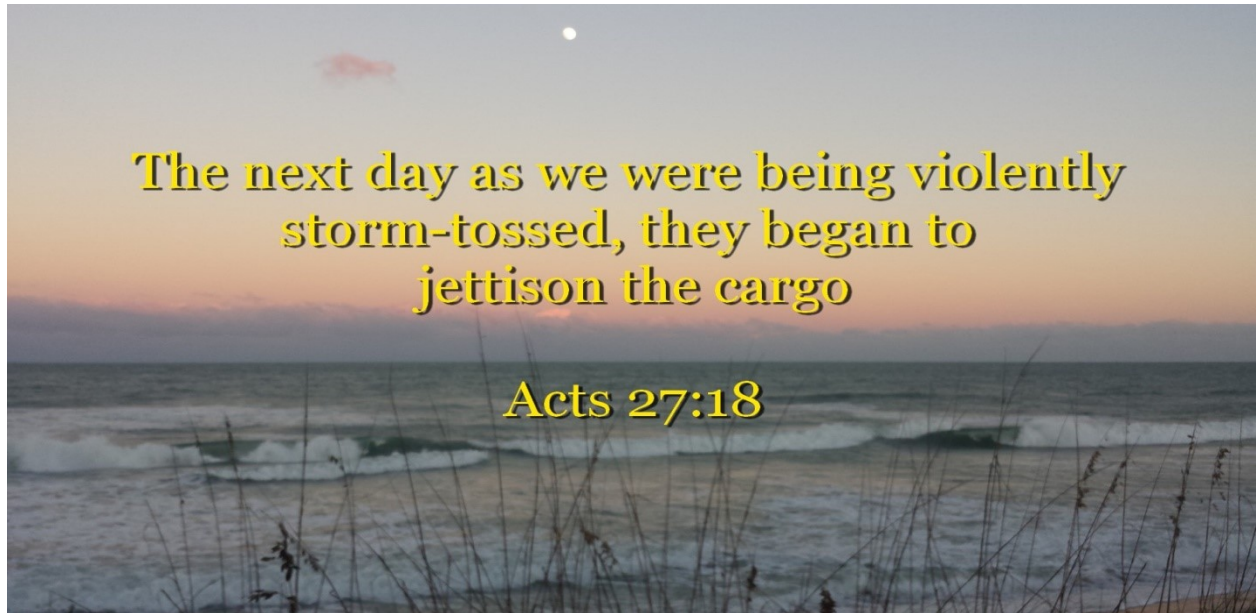
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by avoiding storms by following His plans first. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God's mercies when you find yourself in a storm God warned you to avoid?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 950

Storm-tossed Today



What happened the next day? They jettisoned the cargo.

An Alexandrian ship often contained a cargo of grain. Those ships were some of the biggest ships in the Mediterranean Sea at the time. When the crew decided to jettison the cargo, they knew they were down to fighting for their lives. All hope of profit was being thrown overboard.

Paul had warned the crew and passengers that leaving Fair Havens would result in destruction. Paul even explained that the ship, cargo and people would all be lost. Paul knew that bad things lay in store for that ship.

Now the boat was being violently storm tossed for days. The crew had bound up the hull the best they could with reinforcing cables. They had thrown out the sea anchor. The wind and sea continued to batter them every day and the threat of running aground was never far away.

Julius knew that he still needed to deliver the prisoners to Rome. Without the prisoners, he may have to give his life for theirs if they escaped. The captain and the navigator both knew how perilous the journey had

become, and they had no immediate hope of finding shelter or gaining control of the ship.

Jettison

1. **Next**. What happened the next day? The crew began to jettison the cargo.
2. **Day**. Day by day the crew took more and more drastic action.
3. **Violently**. The wind and sea violently battered their ship.
4. **Tossed**. Storm-tossed waves crashed down upon them.
5. **Began**. Fearing for their lives, they began to consider other ways to save the vessel.
6. **Jettisoned**. Living holy in the family of God means that they jettisoned the cargo as the storm continued unabated.
7. **Cargo**. We rejoice today because Paul was confirmed as correct in warning them not to leave Fair Havens, and now they had to jettison the cargo and lose any hope of profit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the storm tossing the ship carrying Paul for days on end.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the desperate plight of the sailors caught in the storm and fearing for their lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His deliverance even when it costs us worldly goods.**

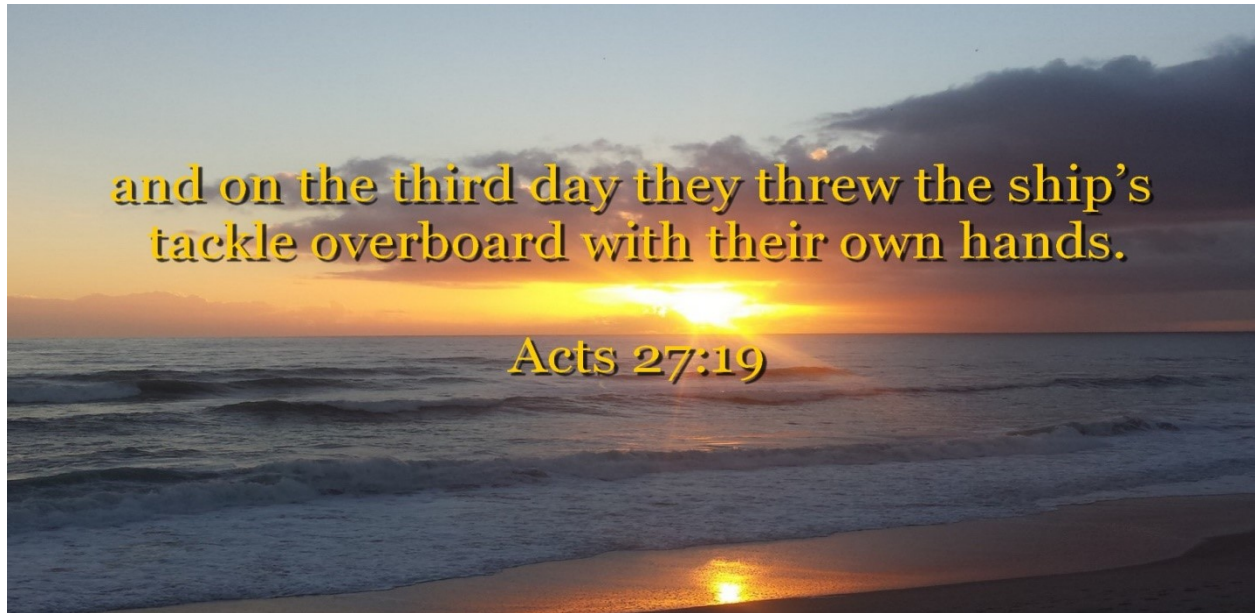
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the way He provides for us even when the majority sends us straight into a terrible storm we could have avoided. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that just because the majority of unbelievers propose a plan of action, only God can lead the way to His chosen destination?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 951

Tackle Today



What happened on the third day? The crew threw the ship's tackle overboard.

As the violent wind and storm raged on, the sailors took actions to try to save themselves and the ship. Despite Paul's warning, the majority had voted to sail away from Fair Havens. They hoped to make it to harbor at Phoenix which was good for wintering. As they were sailing near Crete, a violent wind came upon them driving them for days at its will.

The situation on board became so desperate that they jettison the cargo. Alexandrian ships typically carried grain, a valuable cargo. Those ships were some of the largest plying the Mediterranean at the time. They were certainly no match for the storm.

By the time the third day had arrived, the sailors felt grim about their chances. By jettisoning the tackle overboard, they lightened the load and hoped to gain some freeboard. Without all their tackle, however, their opportunities to control the ship were more limited. Of course, they had lost

control of the boat days before as the violent when drove them across the raging sea.

Overboard

1. **Third**. What happened on the third day? The crew threw the ship's tackle overboard.

2. **Day**. By the third day, the ship's crew had assessed the situation and knew things were looking very desperate.

3. **Threw**. They determined to lighten the ship and began throwing the ship's tackle overboard.

4. **Ship's**. By throwing overboard the ship's tackle, they were throwing away things essential to steering the boat and the ropes and other items needed for proper sailing.

5. **Tackle**. By jettisoning the tackle, they had reached a very desperate point.

6. **Overboard**. Living holy in the family of God means knowing that when the crew jettisoned the tackle overboard, they had reached the point of fearing for their lives and were ripe for Paul telling them about the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Hands**. We rejoice today because the very hands that threw the tackle overboard would be the same hands needed to save the people on board later.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by jettisoning the things in our lives that may be impediments to us surviving any longer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by throwing unnecessary things overboard.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by using our hands to help people get rid of things in their lives that imperil their survival.**

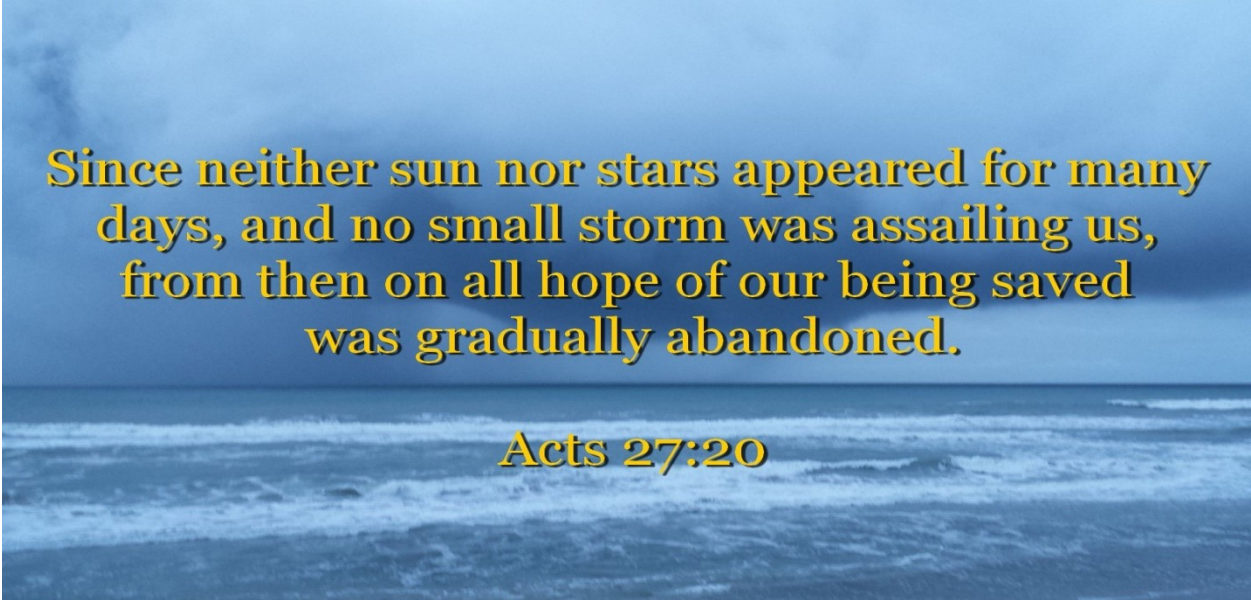
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the crew throwing their tackle overboard. Will you live holy in the family of God today by realizing that in the midst of a storm you may see clearly the things that no longer matter in your life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 952

Hope Today



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.

Acts 27:20

Why did the sailors abandon all hope? Because they had not seen the sun nor the stars for many days.

They were caught in a raging storm and swept along by its strong winds and pounded by its large waves. On land the storm passes by because the land does not move with the storm. When a ship is caught up in the storm, it travels with the storm and suffers the consequences day by day.

This intense storm had blotted out the sun and the stars for many days as it continually assailed the ship. The people on board gradually abandoned all hope of surviving. They had tried to set a sea anchor and put out a boat to anchor near land. When those things did not work, they jettisoned the cargo. When that did not work, they jettisoned the tackle, knowing they were reaching the end of the line.

Paul had warned them not to leave Fair Havens, but they wanted to push on to the harbor at Phoenix to winter there. Paul had warned them that they would lose everything including their own lives. The majority chose to ignore Paul and push on.

Abandoned

1. **Sun**. What effect did many dark days without seeing the sun because of the storm have upon the people aboard ship? They lost hope.

2. **Stars**. Not only was the storm so dark they could not see the sun, but at night they could not see the stars either.

3. **Many**. After many days of no navigation by the stars or the sun, the crew knew they were in trouble.

4. **Days**. For many days the storm had held them and ground them down day by day.

5. **Storm**. The storm not only affected the physical boat, but the people inside the ship were greatly affected also.

6. **Hope**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the people on the ship lost hope of being saved from the storm.

7. **Abandoned**. We rejoice today because although they had abandoned all hope of being saved from the storm, Paul was still on board and he knew the living God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the storms of life can cause people to abandon hope.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God has delivered us from the darkness.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reaching out to people who have lost all hope.**

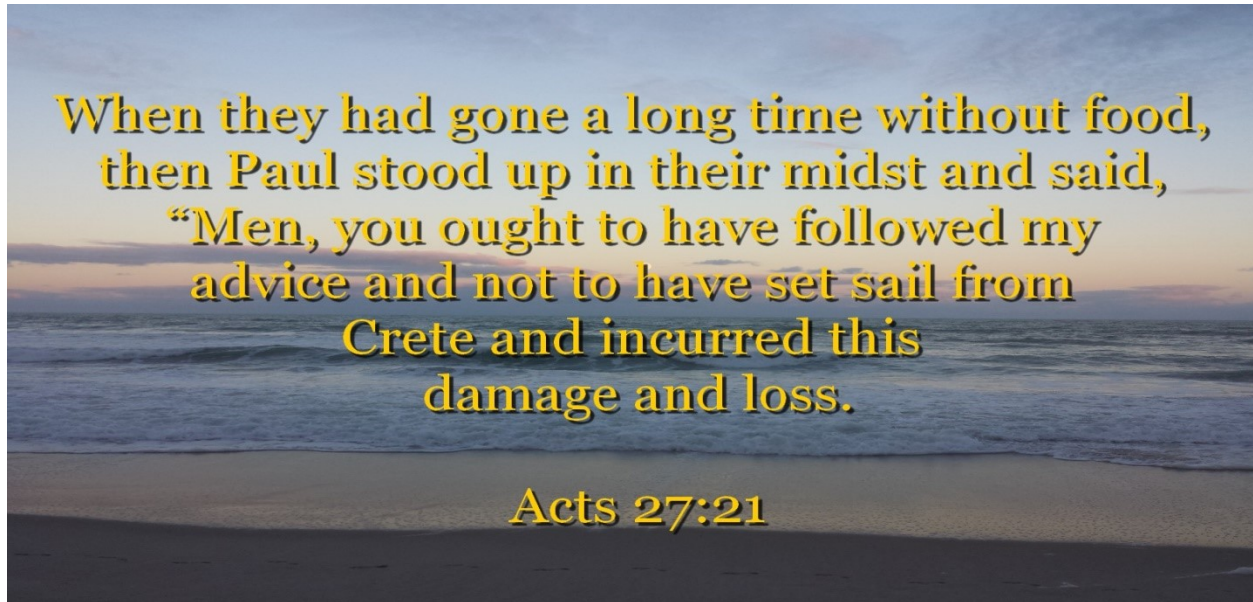
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that some people have lost all hope because of the storms in their life. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reaching out to people living in darkness and without hope in this world?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 953

Paul Today



What happened when the men had gone a long time without food? Paul stood up and addressed them.

Paul spoke in the midst of the crew. He told them that they should have followed his advice and not have set sail from Crete. He said they should not have incurred this loss and damage.

Without the light of sun or stars for many days, and the howling winds and raging waves pounding upon the ship, the crew had already abandoned all hope of being saved. Paul was not puffing his chest out by reminding them of his words previously. Paul had another purpose in mind.

Paul knew that the voyage was not over. He wanted the crew and passengers to trust his words. God was going to provide more guidance to Paul, but if the majority continued to ignore him and his warnings, then further guidance would not help. Paul wanted them to understand that when he spoke, he told them the truth and they should heed his words.

The majority trusted the words of the captain and the navigator. Those men had already led the ship to ruin and imperiled the lives of all the passengers. Although they meant well, they could not be trusted further.

Advice

1. **Food**. What did Paul say about loss? Paul said they ignored his advice and now had been without food for many days.
2. **Paul**. Paul stood up in the midst of the people on board during the storm.
3. **Stood**. Paul stood there and he began to speak to them.
4. **Advice**. He reminded them of his advice while they were at Fair Havens.
5. **Crete**. He had told them then that they should not leave Crete but remain in the harbor at Fair Havens.
6. **Damage**. Living holy in the family of God means that if the people had heeded Paul's warning, they would not have suffered the damage to their ship and its contents.
7. **Loss**. We rejoice today because people can avoid loss by following the directions God provides.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul standing up in the middle of the storm and reminding the people of his advice.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by directing people back to God in the midst of storms.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by directing attention back to God and His power to save people.**

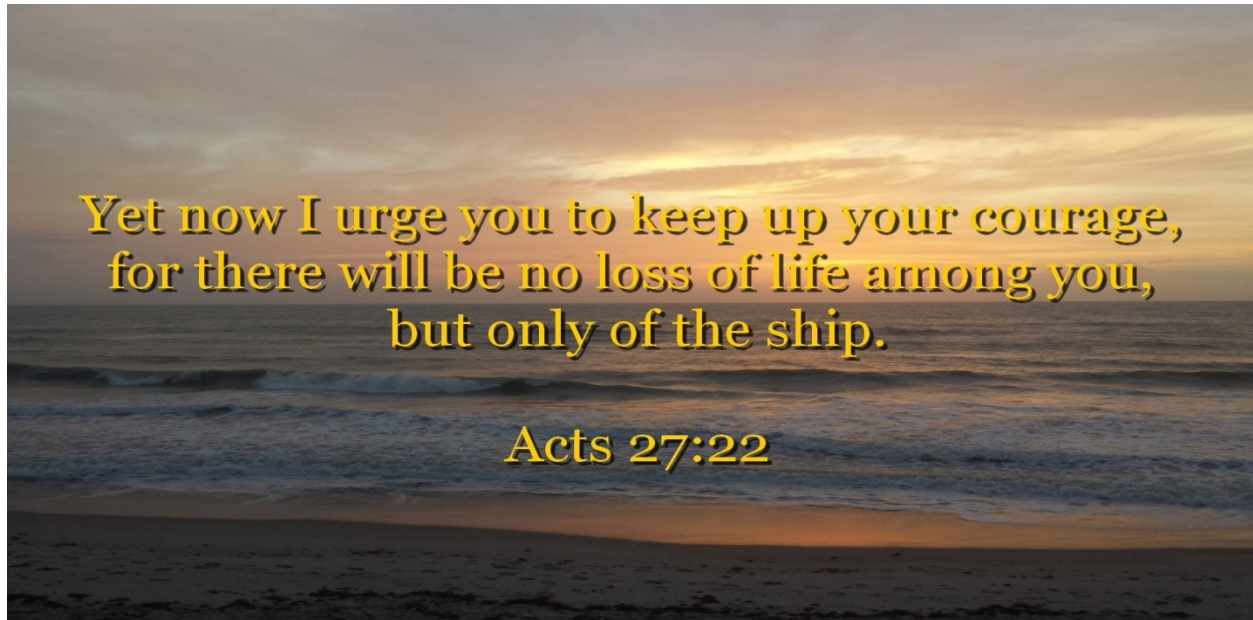
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by standing up at the right time with words of strength and power from God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by standing up in the mist of people suffering through a storm that could have been avoided and telling them about the power of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 954

Urge Today



What new information did Paul deliver to the people on the ship? Paul told them there would be no loss of life among the people on the ship, but the ship itself would be lost.

Paul had been right when he warned the crew and the passengers not to leave Fair Havens on Crete. The majority had ignored his advice and suffered the consequences. They had been at sea for days, running before the storm and caught up in the storm. They had lost the cargo and the tackle and then their hope of being saved. The majority had placed their faith in the captain and the navigator. The time had come for the people on that boat to turn their attention to God for their salvation from the storm and from the penalty of their sins.

Paul's faith and leadership never shined brighter than on that ship. As the ambassador of Christ in chains suffered through the storm, Paul had the assurance from Jesus that he would be going to Rome. Paul knew that one way or another he would survive, but he also knew that the ship would not

survive and every passenger would be at risk when the ship went down. Everyone on board had started trusting God and His messenger, Paul.

Courage

1. **Now**. What news did Paul have for the people on board? Paul urged them to listen to the new words of hope he brought.
2. **Urge**. Paul said, I urge you to hold on to your courage.
3. **Keep**. He knew how essential it was that they did not give up and quit, because they must keep courage to save the lives of people on board.
4. **Courage**. Courage had been abandoned along with their hope because they had been without food and had not seen the sun and stars in days.
5. **Loss**. Paul gave them reason for courage because the ship would be lost, but no life would be lost.
6. **Life**. Living holy in the family of God means that preserving life will always be more important than preserving cargo, tackle and the ship itself.
7. **Ship**. We rejoice today because while the ship would be lost, people would be saved from dying in the storm.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the difference between saving people and saving things.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by urging people to take courage in the midst of big storms and dark days.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by bringing words of encouragement from God to people suffering through a storm.**

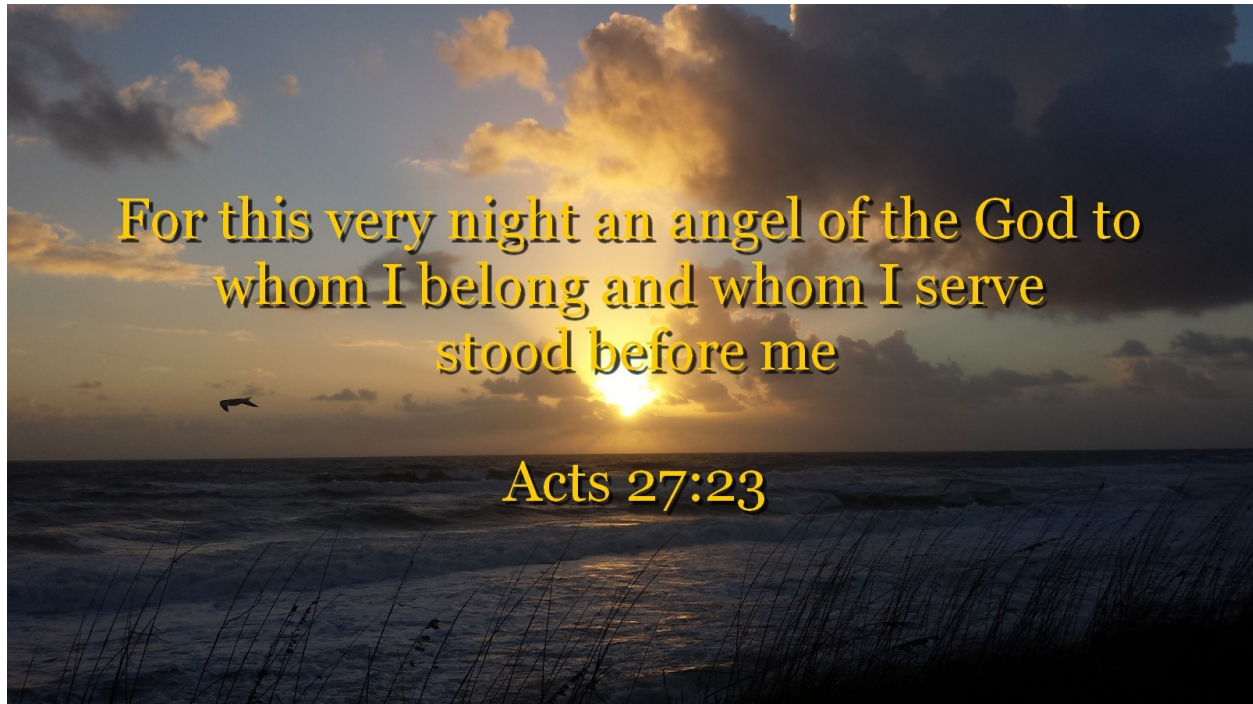
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul standing up on the boat and urging people to keep their courage up. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reminding people that God can spare the life of people trapped on a ship during a violent storm?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 955

Angel Today



Who visited Paul that night? Paul said an angel of the God he served and to Whom he belonged stood before him.

Paul understood that only God could save the ship and the people on board from certain death caused by the storm. Unless they believed in God for help, they would certainly perish. Paul was not encouraging them to believe in their own gods, but to believe in the God who spoke to Paul.

Paul had been to Asia and Europe in Judea proclaiming eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul served the Lord Jesus Christ and the angel was the messenger of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had gained supernatural insight directly from God by way of revelation. Paul was given that revelation to share with the crew and bring hope and encouragement to them, provided that they took heed to what the angel had said.

The crew would have a hard time doing anything but following the orders of the captain and relying upon the navigator. Even so, unless they listened to Paul, both the ship and the people on board would be at risk.

Stood

1. **Night**. What happened that very night? An angel stood before Paul in the storm.
2. **Angel**. The angel brought news from God to Paul.
3. **God**. Paul said he belonged to the God Who sent the angel to him.
4. **Belong**. Paul wanted the entire group of people on board to understand his personal relationship with his God to Whom he belonged.
5. **Serve**. Paul also was bound to serve that God and Paul did not neglect his duty.
6. **Stood**. Living holy in the family of God means that the angel stood before Paul with words of hope on that very night in the darkness with the storm raging.
7. **Me**. We rejoice today because Paul said the angel stood right before me so that everyone would know that Paul was a man of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel who appeared to Paul with great news.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that we belong to God and serve God even during the storms of life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking to God to provide directions, courage and strength to survive the storms of life.**

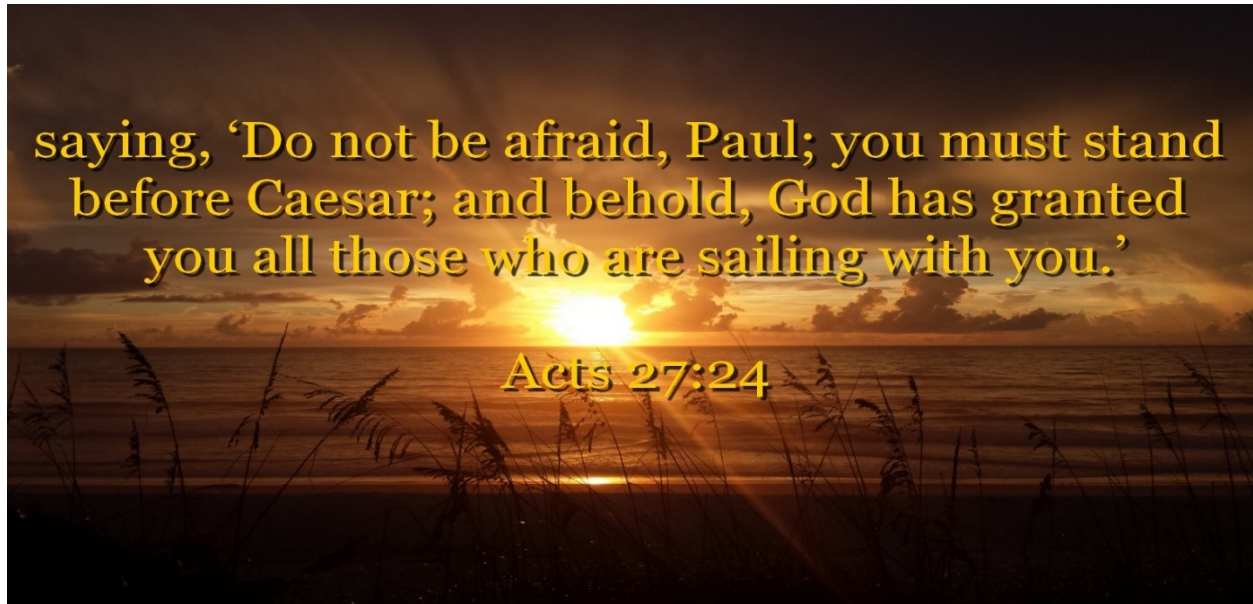
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide a way of escape during life's worst storms. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in God's power to encourage with words of hope and courage?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 956

Stand Today



What did the angel tell Paul? The angel told Paul he must stand before Caesar.

As the storm raged upon the ship and everyone on board had given up hope of being saved, an angel appeared to Paul. Paul had already told the crew to take heart because God had sent an angel to speak to him during the night. Paul described himself as the servant of God.

Paul had warned the crew previously not to leave the harbor at Fair Havens. Having seen the angel, Paul now had reason to take courage. In fact, the angel specifically instructed Paul to take courage. He told Paul that God wanted Paul to stand before Caesar and so he would. Furthermore, the angel promised Paul that everybody on board would be saved. The angel said exactly that God had granted to Paul all those who are sailing with you.

Paul believed every word the angel said as coming from God Himself. Paul immediately relayed the news to the people on board. The only question would be if they would believe Paul or not. Previously they had declined to follow his advice and now were suffering the consequences.

Granted

1. **Afraid**. What command did the angel give to Paul? Do not be afraid.
2. **Stand**. The angel promised Paul that he must stand before Caesar.
3. **God**. The angel also told Paul that God had heard his prayer and granted his request.
4. **Granted**. Because God granted the request of Paul, God had mercy on everyone on board the ship.
5. **All**. God promised that all of them would survive.
6. **Sailing**. Living holy in the family of God means that God granted Paul's request for the life of everyone sailing with him to be saved.
7. **You**. We rejoice today because Paul intervened for the life of everyone sailing with him and God granted that request.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by making requests to God for things that are really important.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never losing hope and never stopping praying.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul was granted his request for the life of everybody traveling with him.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to help us through difficult times so that we can help others get through difficult times. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying that God will help you and the people around you survive difficult times?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 957

Courage Today



What did Paul encourage the crew to do? He told them to keep up their courage because Paul believed it will turn out exactly as God told him.

Such courage on board a ship where everybody had given up hope brought a bright light of strength to everyone on board. Yet, would they believe a single man who claimed to have seen an angel speaking from God? The consequences of ignoring him the first time must have been apparent to everyone.

People today make the same kind of choices. They can believe what God says or they can trust someone else. In times of life or death, courage may make all the difference. As the sea roared and the winds howled, the men had lost all hope because they had not eaten in many days and had not seen the sun or stars during the intense parts of the storm.

The men on board had to make a momentous decision about listening to Paul or ignoring him. Paul had not provided any specific directions yet, but the time was near. Please remember that the crew knew that Paul was a prisoner and he was in trouble even if everyone lived because he still must

face Caesar. Because he was a prisoner, most people would figure that he was guilty of some crime. So, why would they listen to a prisoner?

Believe

1. **Therefore**. What did Paul conclude? Paul used the word therefore to show that he had reached the conclusion about the message from the angel.

2. **Courage**. Paul concluded that all the people on the ship should keep up their courage.

3. **Believe**. Paul said I believe what God said.

4. **God**. God did promise that everybody on the ship would live.

5. **Exactly**. Things were going to turn out just like the angel said who spoke for God.

6. **I**. Living holy in the family of God means that we should all be like Paul who said that I believe things will turn out just like I have been told.

7. **Told**. We rejoice today because God told Paul, using an angel, that every soul on board would live through the storm.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God hears our prayers not only concerning us, but also for the people who are with us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how God helps the Godly and the unGodly.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by petitioning God and then thanking God for granting our petitions.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in God granting us the things we ask of Him that turn out to be a blessing for us and others. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for people who do not know how to pray for themselves?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 958

Aground Today



What other details did Paul relate? Paul related that the boat must run aground on a certain island.

While the wind and waves may batter a ship at sea, often a greater danger lies in running aground. Once the ship runs aground, new forces come to bear upon the structural integrity of the ship. If the hull runs aground, then currents, wind and waves all begin to exert tremendous pressure upon the other parts of the ship, threatening to tear it apart.

Paul now had presented a specific prophecy from God. Everyone would live, but the ship must run aground on a certain island. If the people believed what Paul was saying, then the ship would be in real trouble and the people would be trying to get to the land to save their lives during a storm. They would be coming to land with waves and wind pushing them there. Those same winds and waves would be a huge impediment to reaching the beach safely. Likewise, if the shoreline were rocky, the waves would tend to throw people upon the rocks causing great injuries and death. The coastline of the island would make a big difference regarding survivability of the people on board. Paul had presented a very difficult picture for the crew to evaluate.

Island

1. **But**. What was the bad news from the angel? The ship would run aground.
2. **We**. Paul said that the angel told him that we must run aground.
3. **Must**. By using the word must, Paul understood that running aground was inevitable.
4. **Run**. The wind would drive them forward and they would run aground with tremendous force.
5. **Aground**. The angel also specified that they would run aground on an island, and not a shoal or reef out in the middle of nowhere.
6. **Certain**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the angel told Paul the bad news that they would run aground on a certain island.
7. **Island**. We rejoice today because running aground on an island would allow all the souls on board with Paul to be saved by getting to that island.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the angel brought both good news and bad news.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God does not always provide only good news.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the good news that God provides, especially when it includes keeping many souls alive.**

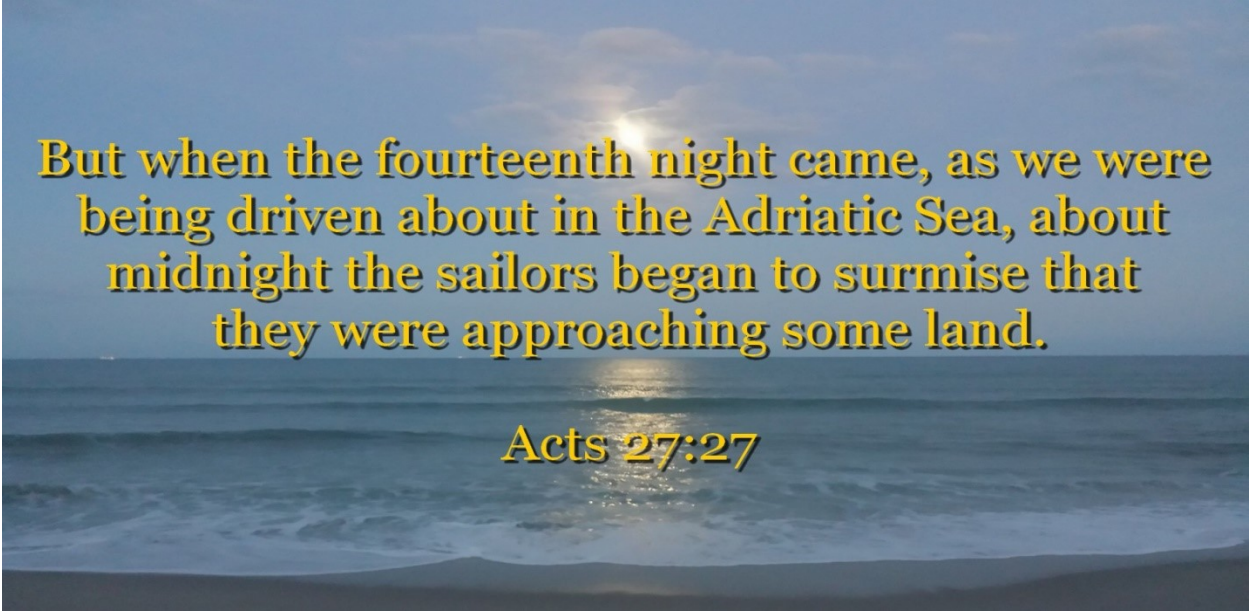
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the angel told Paul good news and bad news. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that the ship would soon run aground in the middle of the storm on a specific island?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 959

Driven Today



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

Acts 27:27

What happened on the fourteenth night? The sailors of surmised that they were approaching land.

The ship and passengers had been thrashed about by the storm for 14 days. They had been swept along in the Adriatic Sea. Even so, fearing running aground in the shallows, the sailors kept a sharp lookout. They had little or no control over the ship during the storm and could not tack away from dangers ahead. They had used their sea anchor, but it did not stop their march forward during the storm.

About midnight on the fourteenth day, the sailors began to surmise that they were nearing land. An uncontrolled landfall at midnight in a storm would qualify as many sailors' worst nightmare. Adding a ship full of passengers would only heighten the danger. At that point the sailors would have to make a choice between saving the passengers and saving themselves.

Paul specifically stated that they would make landfall on an island. The Adriatic Sea is full of islands and landfall seemed imminent. The only question would be about who would survive, if anyone.

Approaching

1. **Fourteenth**. What did the sailors learn at midnight? On the fourteenth day, at midnight, the sailors surmised they were approaching land.
2. **Driven**. For 14 days they had been driven along by a very powerful storm.
3. **Adriatic**. Now they were being driven through the Adriatic Sea.
4. **Midnight**. At midnight the sailors were keeping watch.
5. **Surmise**. They surmised that they were approaching land, often by watching the action of the wind and waves, even if they could not yet see the land in the dark storm.
6. **Approaching**. Living holy in the family of God means that the ship was finally approaching land, and everyone had heard Paul's message about the ship running aground on a certain island.
7. **Land**. We rejoice today because as the ship approached land, everyone would have a choice about listening to Paul or ignoring his words from God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the ship coming near to land at midnight in a storm.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by heeding the words of God as their fulfillment looms before us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that some tragedies serve God's purposes in many ways.**

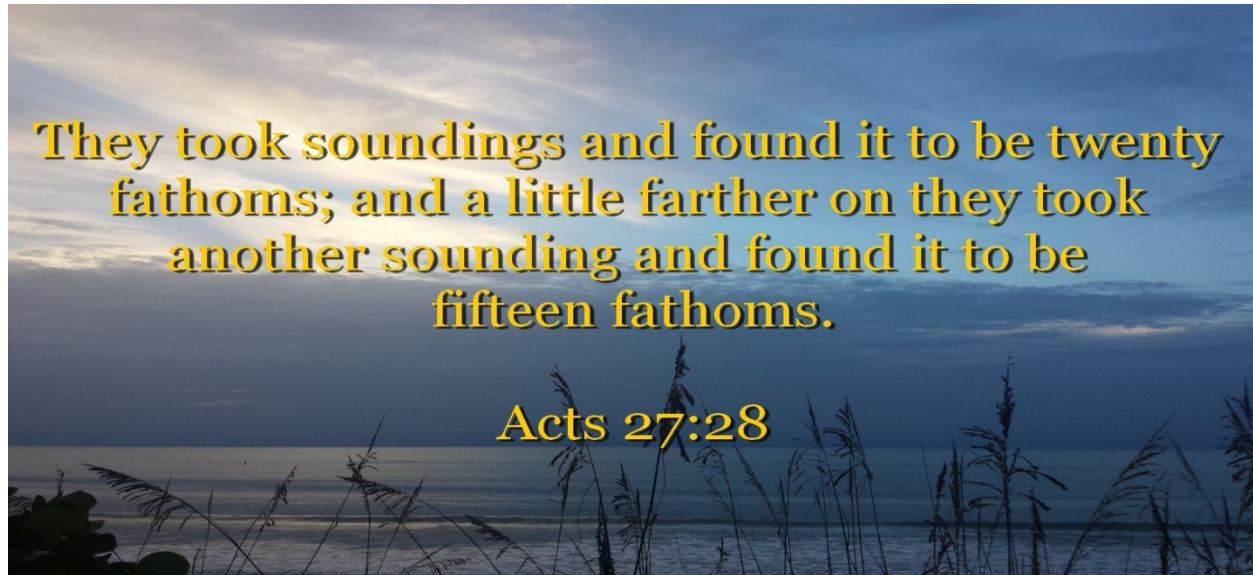
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the midnight watch surmising that they were nearing land. Will you live holy in the family of God today by watching out for the fulfillment of God's prophecies?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 960

Soundings Today



What did the soundings tell the sailors? The soundings confirmed to the sailors that they were nearing land.

On a dark night with the wind and waves slamming into the ship and driving it forward, and without tackle or the ability to change course, the sailors knew they were approaching land and they could do nothing about it. Whatever the coastline held by way of rocks, reefs or other obstructions, their ship was heading straight for it about midnight. Before long, they would be hearing the waves mixed with the noise of the storm raging about them.

The sailors took soundings by dropping a line overboard with a weight. One fathom equals six feet. The first sounding indicated the water was 20 fathoms deep. The second sounding indicated 15 fathoms. Clearly the bottom was sloping up to meet them and would soon grip them with a tight embrace. The sailors knew from those soundings that trouble was not far ahead.

The ship would run aground at night with many passengers on board. The sailors certainly began to think about their own best plan of action. More than likely the ship itself would be lost if it went aground in the middle of the

storm. Would they want to save themselves or try to save the passengers as well?

Fathoms

1. **They**. What did the sailors find? They found the bottom rising to meet them.
2. **Soundings**. They took soundings with a rope and a weight.
3. **Twenty**. They found the first step to be 20 fathoms, or about 120 feet.
4. **Little**. As the ship went a little farther, they took another sounding.
5. **Farther**. Having gone farther into the night and closer to the shore, they now found only 15 fathoms below them.
6. **Fifteen**. Living holy in the family of God means that 15 fathoms, or 90 feet, told the sailors that they were getting very close to land.
7. **Fathoms**. We rejoice today because the sailors knew they approached land and the prophecy from God was about to be fulfilled with no loss of life.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting that every prophecy of God will be fulfilled in its time and place.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the sailors measuring less and less water under the ship.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to help us save lives by following His commands.**

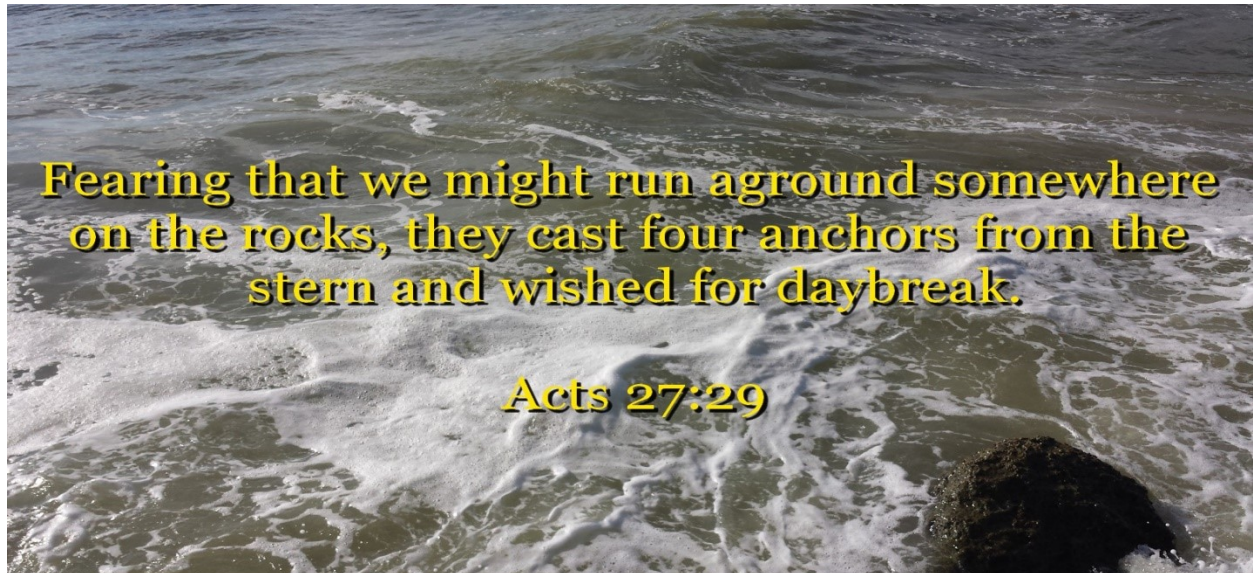
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how the tragedy of losing the vessel would not result in the loss of a single life. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that God's prophecies can be very specific?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 961

Fearing Today



What did the sailors cast from the boat? They cast out four anchors from the stern.

About midnight on the fourteenth day of the storm, the sailors determined that they were nearing land. Paul told them that they would run aground on a certain island, but everyone on board would survive. Of course, that same group of people had ignored Paul's previous warning.

By throwing four anchors from the stern, the crew hoped to stop the boat short of running aground. The wind and the waves continued to batter the ship as the storm raged around them. Whether the anchors would hold in time or be sufficient to hold the ship in place remained to be seen.

Paul had told the folks to eat as they would need their strength and their courage. He also told them that an angel had visited him and communicated that God would save everybody on board, but the ship would be lost. Hearing that news, the sailors already understood that they were nearing land from the soundings they were taking. Their only hope of saving the ship was to cast out anchors and stop before they ran aground. For all

intentions and purposes they were sailing blind at the mercy of the wind and waves.

Wished

1. **Fearing**. What were the sailors hoping for? They were hoping for daybreak as they feared running aground.

2. **Aground**. Because they feared running aground on the rocks, the sailors knew they must take action quickly.

3. **Rocks**. The rocks would tend to grab the hull and pierce it.

4. **Four**. The sailors set four anchors from the stern.

5. **Stern**. Those four anchors would tend to slow the progress of the ship towards the rocks.

6. **Wished**. Living holy in the family of God means that the sailors wished for daybreak so that they could evaluate the situation, but they had not yet turned to Paul for help.

7. **Daybreak**. We rejoice today because daybreak often brings good news as we look around us at a new day, but in this case daybreak would let them know just how dire the situation was.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that what God says will always take place.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by bending our desires towards God's will so that we do not fight against the inevitable.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide a way of escape from every temptation to doubt His word.**

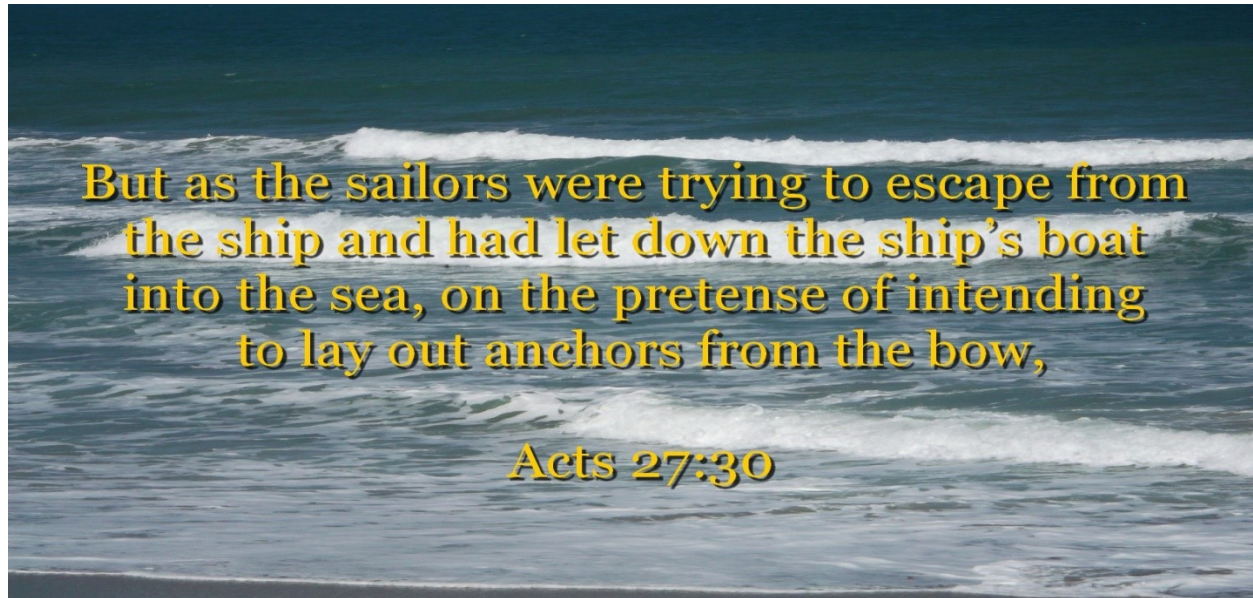
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by believing that God will always keep His word, even when it means that everyone on board will survive the shipwreck. Will you live holy in the family of God today by bending towards God's will and not doubting His word?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 962

Pretense Today



What pretense did the sailors use to escape the ship? They said they were trying to lay out anchors for the bow.

The sailors understood their predicament was very serious. They knew they probably could not stop the ship from running aground. They also expected that the ship would be broken up and lost. Rather than stick around and see how bad it got on board, they let down the small boat and were preparing to make a run for the land, leaving everybody on board to fend for themselves in the dark and heavy surf.

The sailors could not simply announce their intention to abandon ship because they only had one boat. The small boat would not have held all the people on board. Seeking to save their own lives, they needed some excuse for letting down the boat. As a pretext for their escape, they claimed to be letting out anchors from the bow. Of course, those anchors would not stop the forward momentum towards the island.

The sailors had no intention of trying to save the passengers. They feared for their own lives and knew the situation looked grim for everyone. In their minds, they were making the best of a bad situation.

Anchors

1. **Sailors**. What were the sailors trying to do? They were trying to escape from the ship.
2. **Escape**. They hoped to escape from the ship by using the small boat.
3. **Ship**. The sailors thought the ship would certainly run aground and be lost.
4. **Boat**. They needed some excuse to get into the boat and escape from the ship.
5. **Pretense**. They settled on the pretense that they would lay out anchors from the bow.
6. **Anchors**. Living holy in the family of God means that we trust God to anchor our lives to His will and not tell lies.
7. **Bow**. We rejoice today because anchors from the bow would not stop the ship from running aground as the angel had revealed.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for His revelations because they always come true.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never lying as a pretext to do our own thing.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul had warned everyone about the impending shipwreck.**

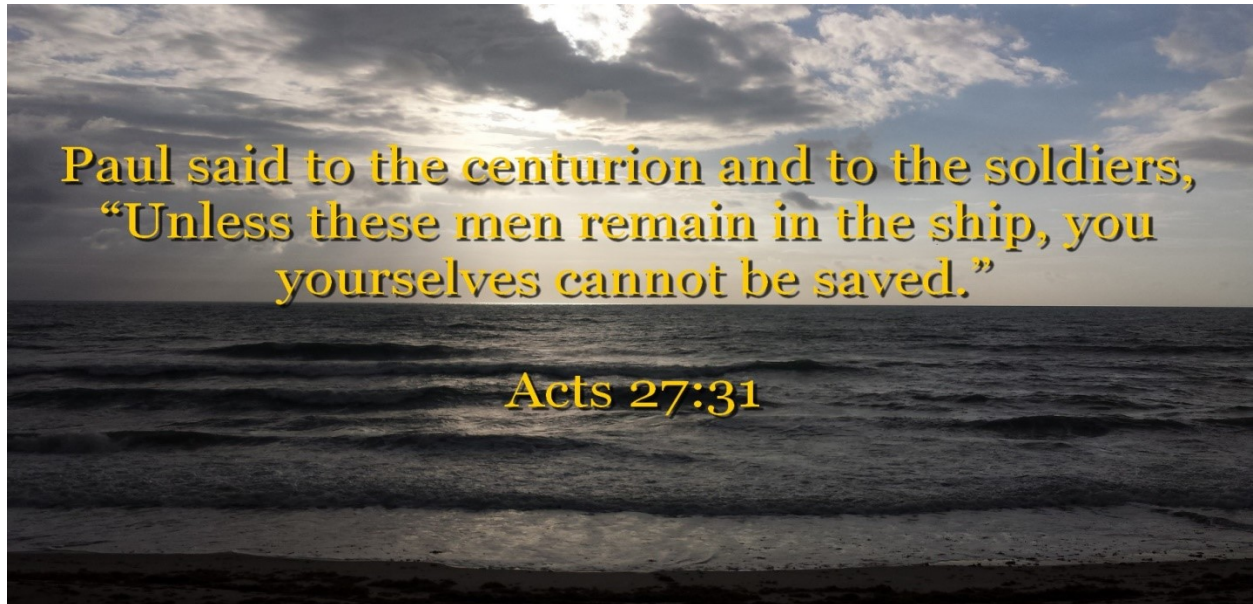
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that once God says the ship will be lost, we should act accordingly. Will you live holy in the family of God today by accepting God's will and not kicking against the goads?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 963

Unless Today



What did Paul tell the centurion and the soldiers? Paul told them that unless those sailors remained on board, the soldiers and the centurion could not save themselves.

Paul understood that the sailors were needed until the last possible moment when everybody had reached shore safely. The angel had already told Paul that the ship would be lost and that they would run aground on a certain island. It was apparent to everyone they had reached that certain island and were about to run aground.

The sailors possessed the skill necessary to unload the passengers and help them get to shore. Of course, the centurion and the soldiers would want to keep a close eye on Paul and the prisoners to make sure they did not escape. If a prisoner escaped, then a soldier might have to pay with his life. Trying to keep the prisoners together and get them safely to land would also be a major challenge for the soldiers.

The challenge before the soldiers concerned the sailors. Would the soldiers heed Paul's warning and stop the sailors from fleeing the ship and

taking the small boat with them? Everyone was about to find out just what was going to happen next.

Remain

1. **Paul**. How did Paul mobilize the centurion and the soldiers? He told them that they could not be saved unless the men remained on the ship.

2. **Centurion**. The centurion and his soldiers clearly understood Paul's message and acted upon it promptly.

3. **Unless**. Paul had told the soldiers and the centurion that the men must stay on the ship.

4. **Men**. Those men were lying and trying to escape from the ship at the expense of everyone else.

5. **Remain**. They must remain on the ship for the passengers to have any hope of surviving the shipwreck.

6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul telling the soldiers and the centurion that the men must remain on the ship for you to be saved.

7. **Saved**. We rejoice today because God intended to save every soul on the ship, but the ship itself would not be saved.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for His deliverance on His terms.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking action at the right time to accomplish God's will.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God's plans often include our action at His command.**

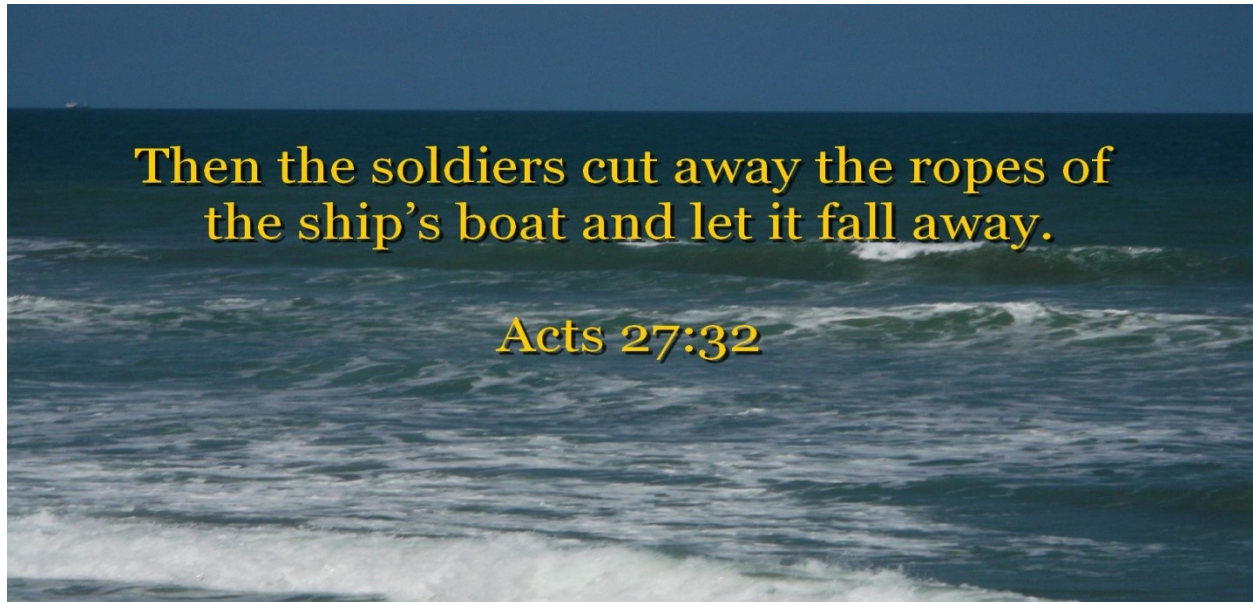
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by exposing the lies of people trying to interfere with God's plans. Will you live holy in the family of God today by faithfully following God's orders to achieve God's plans for your life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 964

Soldiers Today



What did said that the soldiers decide to do with the small boat? They cut away the ropes to the ship's boat and let it fall away.

The soldiers clearly understood that Paul told them the truth. They were no longer willing to let the crew determine the next steps. The soldiers cut away the ropes holding the boat so that it fell away. No one was going to use that boat to do anything because it would be gone quickly in the night.

Letting the boat go kept the sailors on board. Now they had to think harder and work harder to find a way to get off the boat and to dry land. With many prisoners on board and the soldiers ready to protect their prisoners, the sailors had to take appropriate action quickly.

The four anchors were still out the back, but obviously the sailors did not think they were enough to stop the ship from running aground. The big question would be when it would run aground and how bad it would be. As the wind and the waves swept them along toward shore, the sailors would know soon just how bad the predicament would be. Without their boat to

carry them safely the sailors were not immediately inclined to abandon ship and start swimming for the beach, if there was one nearby.

Ropes

1. **Soldiers**. What did the soldiers do to keep the sailors on the ship? They cut the ropes to the boat.

2. **Cut**. The soldiers took swift action and cut the ropes to the boat.

3. **Ropes**. Those ropes held the boat to the ship.

4. **Boat**. The sailors used the pretext of getting in the boat to set anchors from the bow.

5. **Let**. When the soldiers cut the ropes to the boat, the sailors watched the boat fall away and with it their hopes of escape from the ship.

6. **It**. Living holy in the family of God means that taking strong, appropriate action at just the right time can actually save many lives.

7. **Fall**. We rejoice today because the boat fell away from the ship, but God was going to save every person on board without the boat.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by recognizing that God saves people and accomplishes His will according to His plans and power, not our lies.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking swift action against people trying to thwart God's plans.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the boat floating away, so that everyone would have to work together to save everyone else.**

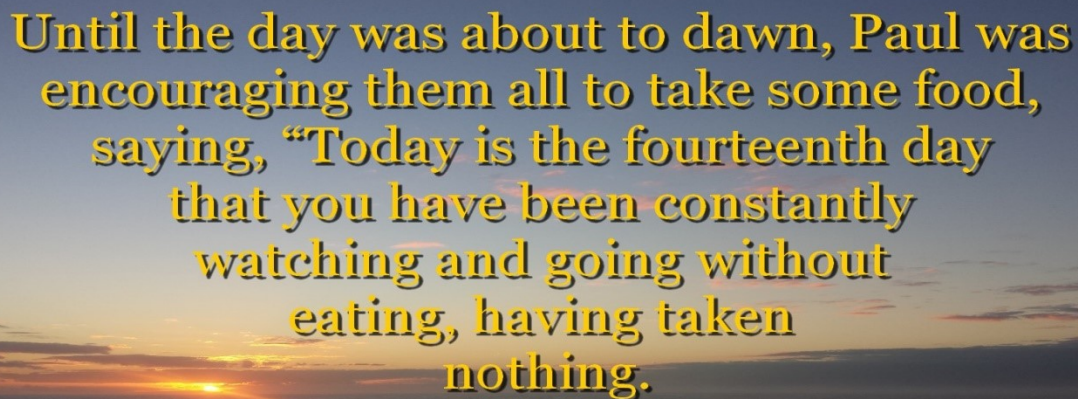
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking swift action to sever the hope of people seeking to oppose God's plans. Will you live holy in the family of God today by staying the course set out by God for saving everyone from certain calamity?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 965

Encouraging Today



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.

Acts 27:33

What did Paul tell the people about eating? Paul was encouraging them all to eat.

Paul knew from the angel that the ship would be lost. It would soon be running aground with catastrophic consequences. The angel had said that all the people on board would be saved, but the ship would be lost. Therefore, the people on board had to be strong enough to swim to shore.

The sailors had tried to flee the ship, but the soldiers had stopped their flight. Undoubtedly, the sailors were in a very bad mood at this point and blamed the soldiers for their troubles. The people on board still needed a way to survive.

In order to survive, physical strength would be required. The people on board had not eaten for about 14 days. Their strength would be failing them, just when they would need it most to get to shore. Therefore, Paul prevailed upon them to take something to eat. They had been going 14 days constantly watching and looking, but going without eating.

Food

1. **Dawn**. What was Paul doing until dawn? He was encouraging the men to take food.
2. **Paul**. Paul understood that the shipwreck was in their near future.
3. **Encouraging**. Therefore, he was encouraging everyone to eat and particularly the sailors.
4. **Food**. They needed to eat food to build up their strength to get from the ship to the beach.
5. **Saying**. Paul was saying that the time had come to eat.
6. **Fourteenth**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul encouraged the people to eat because on the fourteenth day of the storm they would need their strength.
7. **Watching**. We rejoice today because for 14 days the people had been watching and going without food, having taken nothing, but the time had come for them to eat and build their strength because God was going to deliver them from a shipwreck.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by encouraging people to take strength for the work ahead.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by preparing our bodies to be ready for the work ahead of us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to eat appropriately.**

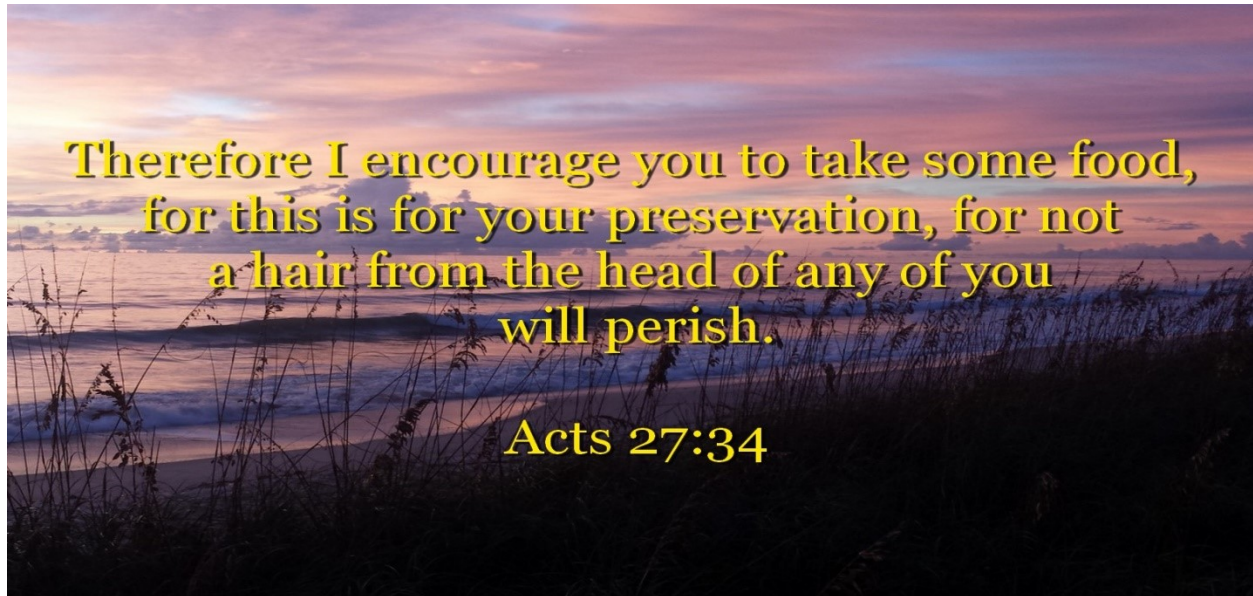
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to eat and build our strength. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to encourage others to eat appropriately?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 966

Food Today



Why did Paul encourage the people to eat? He encouraged them to eat for their own preservation.

The sailors knew they were approaching land. Under the pretext of taking the boat and putting out anchors from the bow, they were actually trying to escape from the ship. Paul warned the soldiers and the centurion that if the soldiers got away, people would perish on the ship. Therefore, the soldiers cut the boat's lines away and it fell to the water below. The sailors could no longer leave the ship.

As dawn was coming, Paul was urging the people on board to take food. They had not eaten for many days and their strength was waning. Paul further exhorted them that not a hair from their heads would be lost. The ship, however, would run aground and be lost. Paul was preparing the people on board for the ship breaking up beneath them.

Paul was preparing the people on board for the ship to be lost, but they would be saved. Rather than have them driven in panic, Paul was urging them to have hope of their salvation. God did promise to provide all of them

with a way of escape from the vessel after it ran aground. The people, however, had to believe what Paul said and not lose hope when the ship ran aground.

Preservation

1. **Encourage**. What did Paul encourage the people on the ship to do? He encouraged them to take food for strength.

2. **Food**. The people had not eaten food in many days.

3. **Preservation**. They would need their strength for self-preservation.

4. **Not**. Although God prophesied through an angel that not one hair on their head would be lost, they must still take appropriate action to prepare for shipwreck.

5. **Hair**. God had guaranteed the hairs on the head of all the passengers and crew.

6. **Head**. Living holy in the family of God means that God knows the number of hairs on our heads and has the power to keep each one in place.

7. **Perish**. We rejoice today because God did not want anyone on the ship to perish.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never taking God for granted about any matter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking appropriate action at the right time so that we have the strength to do God's will.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to help us through shipwrecks in our life.**

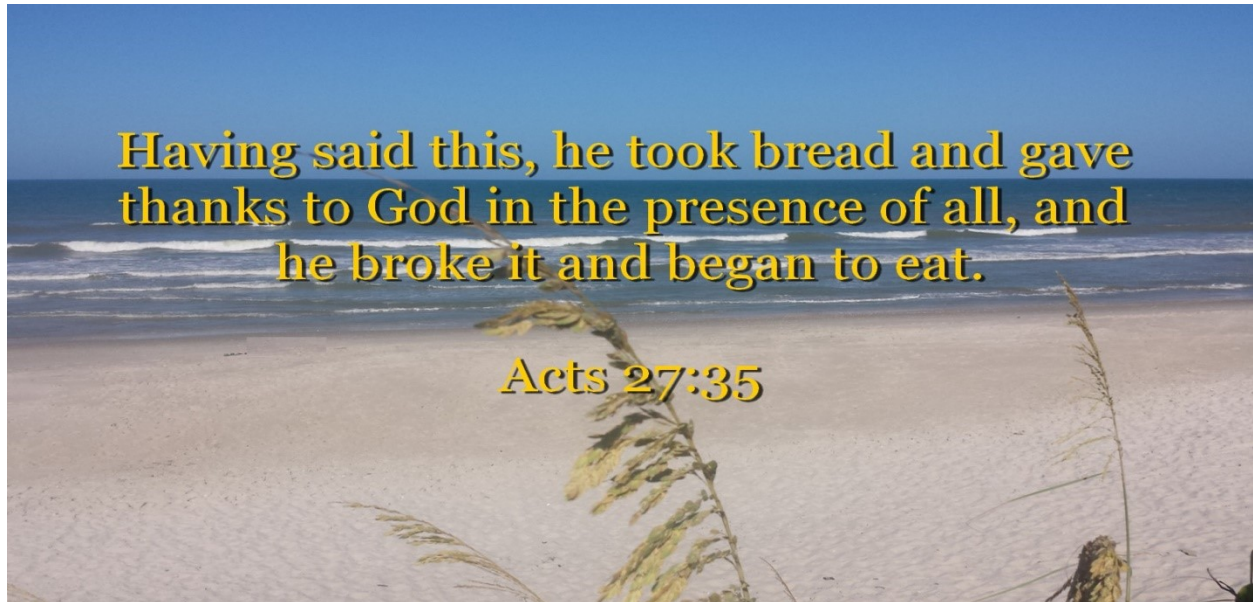
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking food and being ready to use our strength as God delivers us from harm. Will you live holy in the family of God today by realizing that God can spare every hair on your head even as the ship around you falls to pieces in the storm?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 967

Bread Today



What did Paul do next? Paul took some bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all.

Paul wanted the people to regain their strength by eating. He also wanted to assure the people that even after the ship ran aground, God would protect them and help them reach the shore. Paul did not want them to break into a blind panic once the ship ran aground and began to break up.

Having exhorted the people on board with his words and promise from God, Paul gave a visible demonstration of what he wanted them to do. He took some bread in the presence of everyone, gave thanks to God for the bread, and began to eat it with everyone watching. Paul knew the value of a visual demonstration of God's will. Just because God did promise that everyone would be saved did not mean that everybody could sit down and watch God just carry them to the beach.

God expected the people to eat, regain their strength and avoid panic. If they would believe God's prophecy that He would save everybody on board,

then they could trust God to help them reach the beach and safety so that not a hair on the head of anyone would be lost.

Eat

1. **Said**. How did Paul demonstrate that it was time to eat? Paul took bread and ate in front of everyone.

2. **Took**. When Paul took bread, he showed everyone else that they all needed to eat.

3. **Bread**. The bread gave them strength enough to preserve their lives as God saved them.

4. **Thanks**. Paul gave thanks to God for providing the food.

5. **God**. God always provides our food by opening His hand and satisfying the desire of every living thing.

6. **Presence**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul gave thanks to God in the presence of everybody on board.

7. **Ate**. We rejoice today because Paul ate, setting the example for everyone to take strength because they would need it shortly.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by not only talking about God's promises, but showing everyone that we believe God's promises.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul eating the bread in front of everyone.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by setting an example of faith in God's word for all to follow.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by showing people that God's word should be trusted under all circumstances. Will you live holy in the family of God today by giving thanks for the bread He provides in your life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 968

Encouraged Today



What happened after the people saw Paul eating? They were all encouraged.

The value of demonstrating God's will for people cannot be underestimated. Paul not only encouraged them with his words and reasoning, Paul also demonstrated God's will for them. He gave thanks for some bread and ate it in the presence of all. That simple demonstration, coupled with his promise from God, stirred the hearts of the people so that they took food and ate.

With the people taking food, their energy levels would rise. By thanking God for the food in the presence of all, Paul reinforced the words God delivered through the angel. God was rescuing all the people on the ship so that Paul could continue to proclaim salvation to them in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul did not want the crew and the passengers to be saved from shipwreck only to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. Paul lived every day as a messenger of Jesus Christ, delivering the loving words of the Gospel of the

Lord Jesus Christ to the people on the ship. Paul did not suddenly get religion during the storm.

Food

1. **All**. What effect did Paul have upon others by eating? All of the others were encouraged and ate.
2. **Them**. Simply eating before them had a good effect upon them.
3. **Encouraged**. They were encouraged from Paul's simple demonstration.
4. **They**. Having seen Paul and heard his exhortation, they ate as well.
5. **Themselves**. The others had to look after themselves and realize they would need their strength.
6. **Took**. Living holy in the family of God means that people saw Paul eat and then they took food themselves
7. **Food**. We rejoice today because people ate food to prepare themselves for shipwreck.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by encouraging other people so that they too eat.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that setting a good example could have a good effect.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to do the will of God together.**

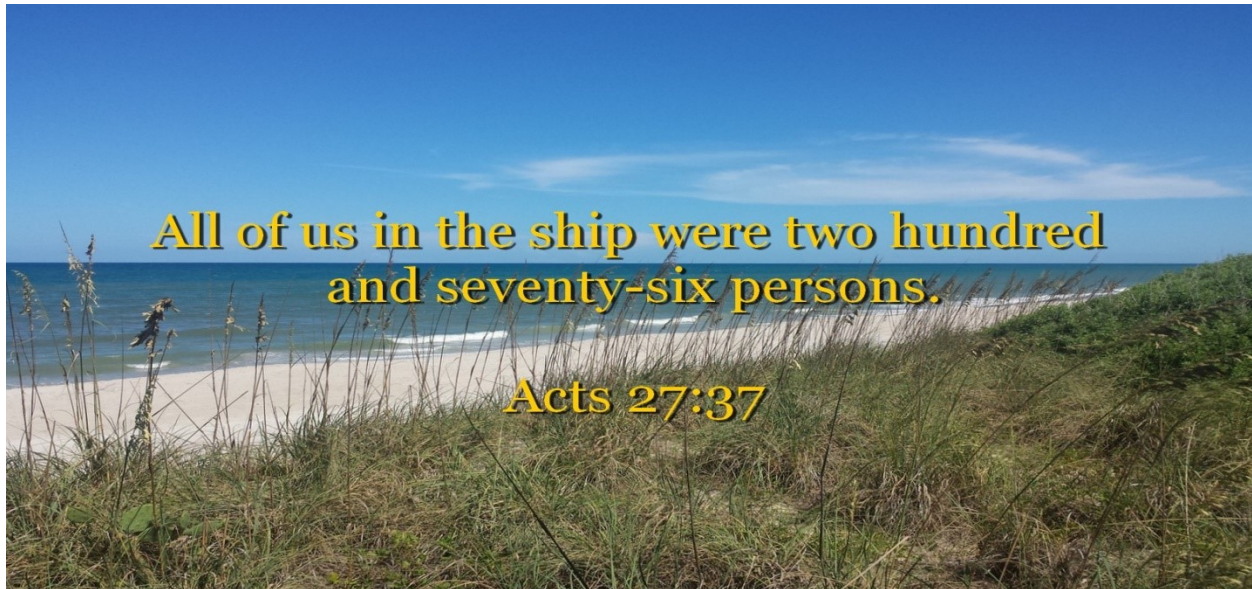
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by encouraging others to do the will of God by setting a good example for them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being careful to set a good example that will encourage other people to do the will of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 969

Us Today



How many people were on the ship? There were 276 people on the ship.

The Alexandrian grain ships were some of the largest ships in the Mediterranean. They were large, strong vessels for that day. That ship had already survived 14 days in the storm. The life of the vessel, however, was nearing an end. No more profits would be made from that vessel.

An angel appeared to Paul and promised him during the storm that no life would be lost, although the ship would be destroyed. As the sailors realized they were approaching land, they had thrown out four anchors from the stern. They intended to slow the progress of the boat and perhaps stop short of running aground.

Meanwhile, Paul was persuading people to take food for the preservation of their lives. They would need their strength when the boat ran aground to make it to the beach. Paul demonstrated God's will by taking some bread and giving thanks for it before everyone. He then ate the bread and they followed suit.

Paul understood that blind panic when the ship ran aground would pose an enormous problem. The more the people were willing to trust God and His prophecy that they would survive, the better things would go when the ship ran aground.

Two Hundred Seventy-six

1. **All**. How big was the ship? Big enough to carry, cargo, tackle, grain and two hundred seventy six people.
2. **Of**. All of the people on board had watched Paul eat the bread.
3. **Us**. Paul looked upon them as us, indicating he was one of them.
4. **In**. The people were still in the ship at this point, knowing they were drawing near to land and shipwreck.
5. **Ship**. The Alexandrian grain ships were some of the largest vessels in the Mediterranean Sea and so could handle 200 plus people as passengers and crew.
6. **Were**. Living holy in the family of God means that all the people on board were at risk of dying except for the power and promise of God at work to preserve their lives.
7. **Persons**. We rejoice today because God cared about every person on board and promised to save their lives.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the 276 people on board that God promised to save.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that one person following the will of God and eating could have a marvelous effect upon 275 other people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how God had promised all 276 people on board that ship that not one of them would lose a hair from their head.**

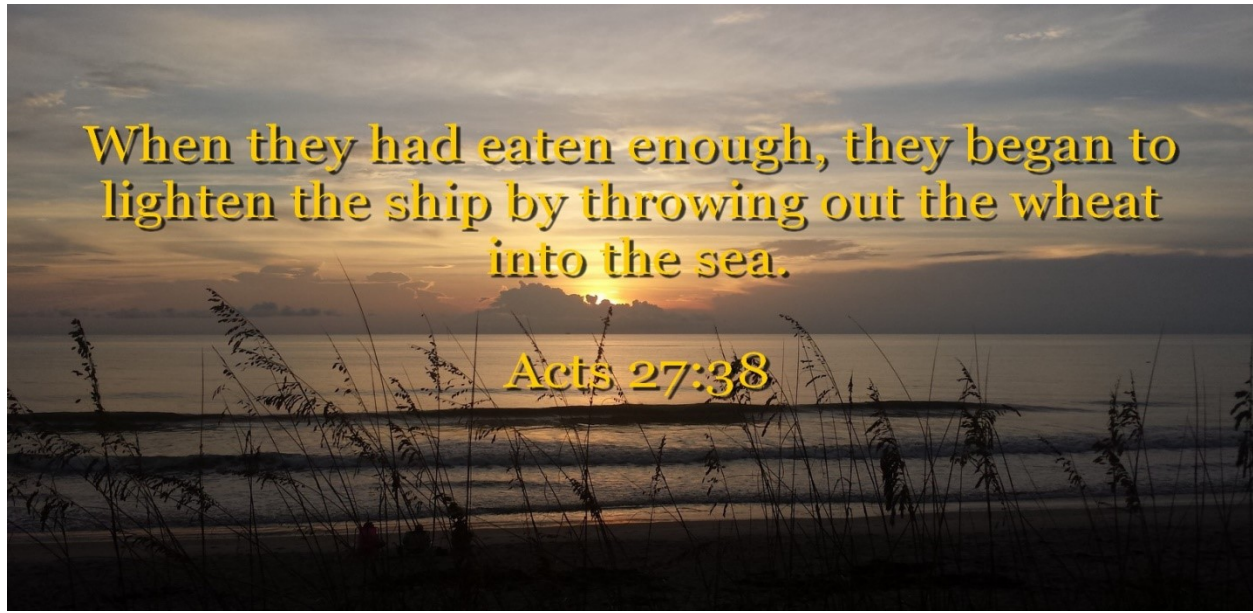
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering God's unlimited power to save lives in the midst of storms. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to get you and many others through the storm and safely to shore?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 970

Throwing Today



What did the people do to lighten the ship? They began throwing the wheat into the sea.

Previously, the crew had thrown the cargo overboard. Later, they had thrown the tackle overboard. Now they were throwing the wheat overboard. These large Alexandrian ships carried grain and passengers. They made regular trips in their large vessels. They also made large profits.

As the large ship neared the coast, the people understood that lightening the vessel would help get them closer to the beach. Even so, the prophecy from God indicated they would certainly run aground and the ship would be lost. The prophecy also provided that not a hair on the head of any of the people would be lost. The people would have to trust God to make their way to the beach.

The sailors had already tried to abandon ship and leave the passengers to fend for themselves. Paul had warned the soldiers that if the sailors got away, no one would survive. Paul understood that the sailors were essential for helping the passengers to get off the ship and make their way to land.

Wheat

1. **Day**. What happened when day came? They did not recognize the land.
2. **Came**. As day came, the sailors sought to orient themselves.
3. **Recognize**. They did not recognize the island in front of them, but they knew they would be making landfall shortly one way or another.
4. **Land**. Seeing land and fearing the shallowness, they began to lighten the ship.
5. **Lighten**. As they began to lighten the ship, they were hoping to get as close to shore as possible before running aground.
6. **Ship**. Living holy in the family of God means that the sailors took action to make landfall as safely as possible.
7. **Wheat**. We rejoice today because the sailors dumped the wheat overboard, knowing that the ship would soon be lost anyway.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sailors throwing the wheat overboard in a final attempt to lighten the ship.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking the best steps to accomplish the will of God, such as lightening the ship as it approached land.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to keep His promises as we look at shipwreck in the future.**

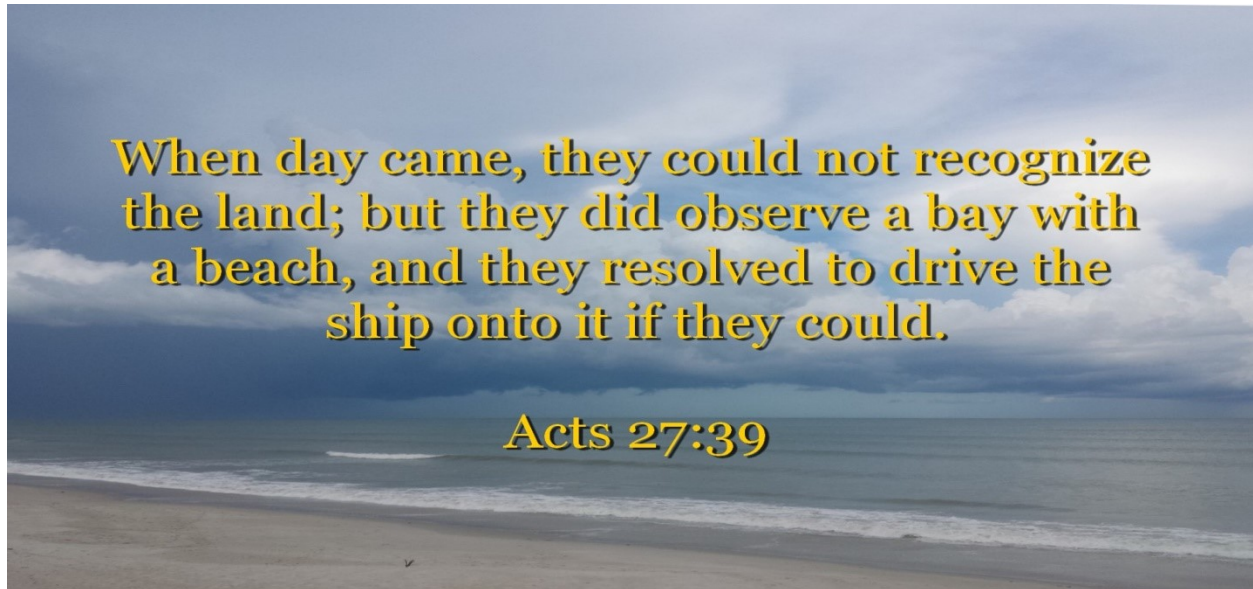
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He spares the lives of hundreds of people as they all undergo shipwreck. Will you live holy in the family of God today by encouraging people to trust God as hundreds of people face calamity together?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 971

Observe Today



What did the day bring? The day allowed the sailors to evaluate the land.

The sailors did not recognize the land. They did see a bay with a beach which looked attractive as a landing spot. With the lightened ship, they hoped to drive the ship upon it.

A new day brought new hope for the sailors and the passengers. They had struggled through the storm for 14 days. Paul had seen the angel the night before and determined that no loss of life would occur, but the ship would be lost.

Paul convinced the people on board to take food, because they had been on watch during the storm and not eating. They needed their strength to make it to the beach. God did promise that no one would be lost.

The time had come to run the boat aground as near to shore as possible. Without local knowledge, submerged reefs and rocks pose serious issues to the sailors. They really had little choice and needed to get to shore immediately. Sailing further in their condition was not really an option.

Beach

1. **Day**. What did they see when day came? They saw a beach.
2. **Recognize**. They did not recognize the land.
3. **Land**. They knew the land was part of an island, but they did not know much more.
4. **Bay**. They also sought a bay, apparently suitable for landing the boat.
5. **Beach**. In the bay they also saw a beach.
6. **Drive**. Living holy in the family of God means that the sailors wanted to drive the ship up on the beach so that people could make it to land easily.
7. **Could**. We rejoice today because the sailors were attempting to drive the boat on the beach, if they could.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to survey the land before we make hasty decisions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to keep His promises as daylight breaks.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by working together to accomplish God's will so that people are saved from disaster.**

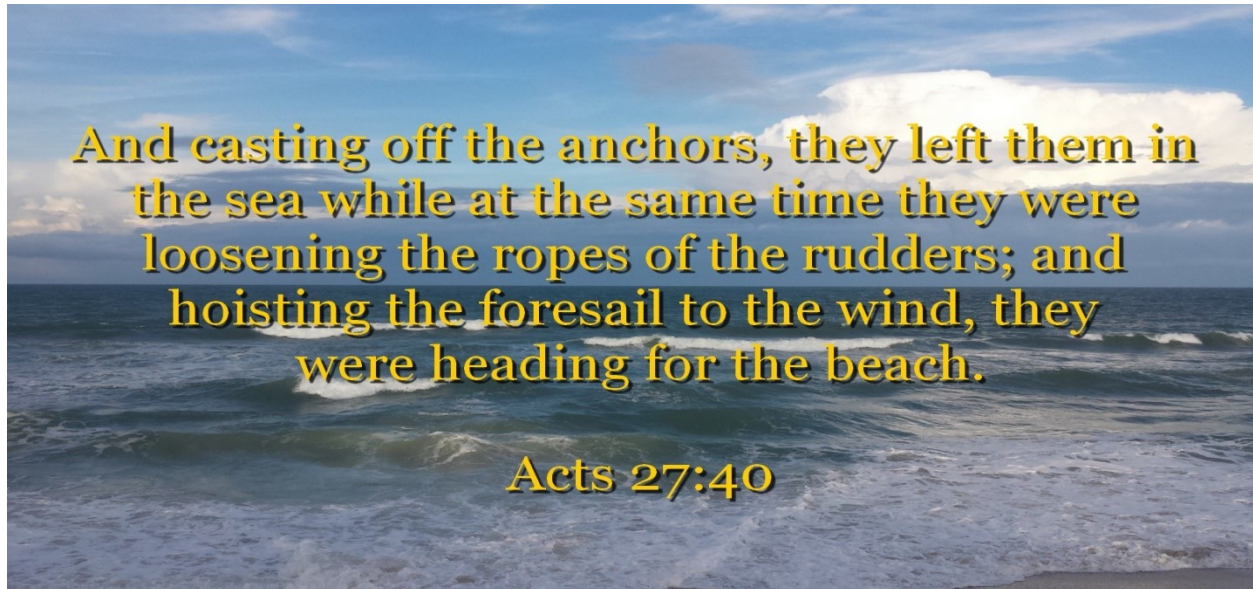
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God's promises of deliverance. Will you live holy in the family of God today by relying upon God and His promises above "expert" opinions?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 972

Casting Today



What did the sailors do with the anchors? The sailors left the anchors behind.

The sailors needed to prepare the ship to run aground on the beach. First, they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea. Second, they simultaneously loosened the ropes of the rudders. Third, they hoisted the foresail to the wind, driving the boat forward. Things started out well as they moved towards the beach.

They knew that they were in sight of land now. They could even see a large bay opening before them. The land also had a beach where the people could get to land. The immediate task was to get the boat close enough to the beach so that the people on board would have a minimal distance to cover to get to safety on the beach.

The sailors were experienced hands. Yet, they were at the mercy of God and the rocks below them. Paul had already told them about the revelation from God the ship would be lost. They were riding the ship about to be

shipwrecked, but according to the prophecy, all lives on board would be saved and make it safely to shore.

Hoisting

1. **Casting**. What did they do with the anchors? They cast them off.
2. **Anchors**. Having cast off the anchors, they left them in the sea.
3. **Sea**. The anchors had done their job, but now the sailors wanted to move the boat forward under its own power towards the beach.
4. **Loosening**. They were loosening the ropes holding the rudders through the storm.
5. **Rudders**. Those rudders provided some guidance during the storm, but now the sailors wanted to try to reach the beach.
6. **Foresail**. Living holy in the family of God means that the sailors hoisted the foresail to gain some velocity and provide some steerage for the ship.
7. **Beach**. We rejoice today because, at long last, the ship was about to make land on a beach, hopefully.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sailors trying to make it to the beach.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering too that God said that ship would be lost before reaching the beach.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to keep His promises.**

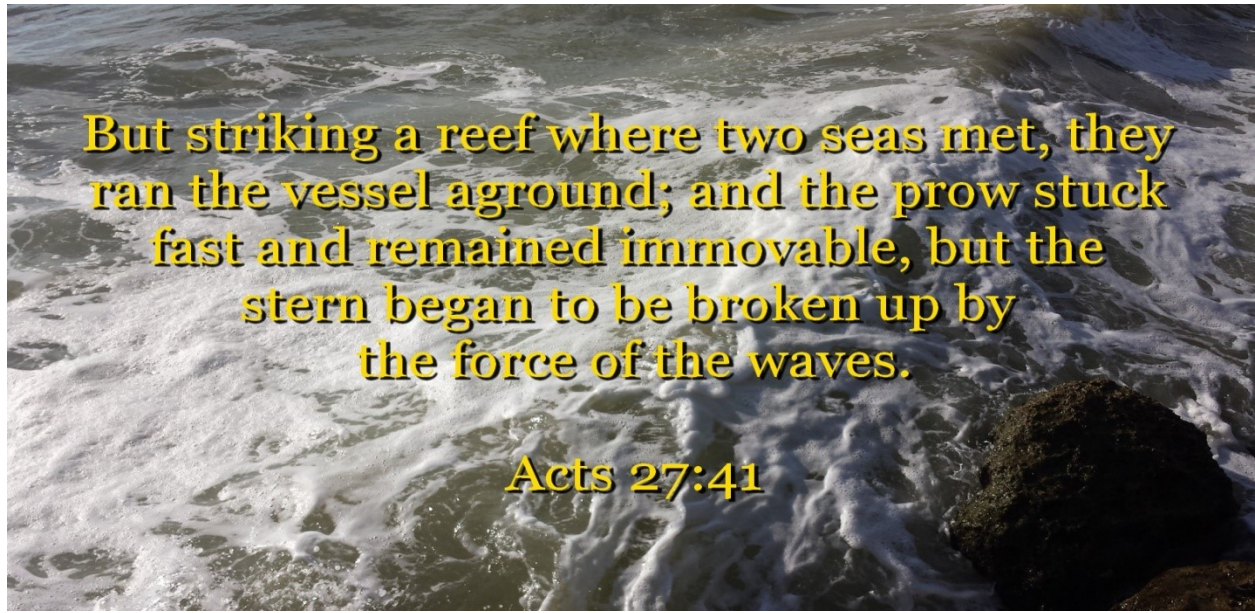
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that just because we can see the beach does not mean the ship will reach it. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon God to keep His word so that if the ship is lost, the people on board will make it to the beach safely?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 973

Reef Today



What happened as they moved towards the beach? They struck a reef where two seas met.

The vessel ran fast aground, with the bow stuck in the rocks below. With the front of the vessel tightly jammed into the reef below, the force of two seas meeting was now applied to all parts of the vessel. That force that moves seas of water now tried to move the ship. As the hull held fast to the reef, the stern came under intense hydraulic pressure. Piece by piece the stern was battered by waves and began to break up.

All the sailors on board knew the ship was completely lost. The question remained about getting the passengers and crew safely to shore. Panic began to spread on the ship. Everyone had to make their way to the beach.

Paul knew that everybody on board was going to make it safely to that beach. By the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ, every person on board would make it to the beach without losing a hair from their head. Paul

certainly had confidence as he helped the people prepare to disembark from the boat and make their way to the beach.

Waves

1. **Striking**. As the ship lurched forward with the wind filling the foresail, what happened? Striking a reef, the ship met its doom.
2. **Reef**. The ship had hit a shallow reef.
3. **Met**. The reef was located where two seas met.
4. **Aground**. They ran the vessel aground there.
5. **Prow**. The prow of the ship jammed into the reef and held fast.
6. **Stern**. Living holy in the family of God means that while the prow was held fast and immovable on the reef, the stern felt the pressure of the waves and current crashing against it.
7. **Broken**. We rejoice today because as the ship was broken to pieces, starting at the stern, God's plan was moving along so that everybody on board would get to land safely.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God can save every soul on board from drowning while allowing the ship to be broken into pieces.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how God can sacrifice a ship to save the people on board.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by realizing that God created many pieces of wood suitable for paddling to shore.**

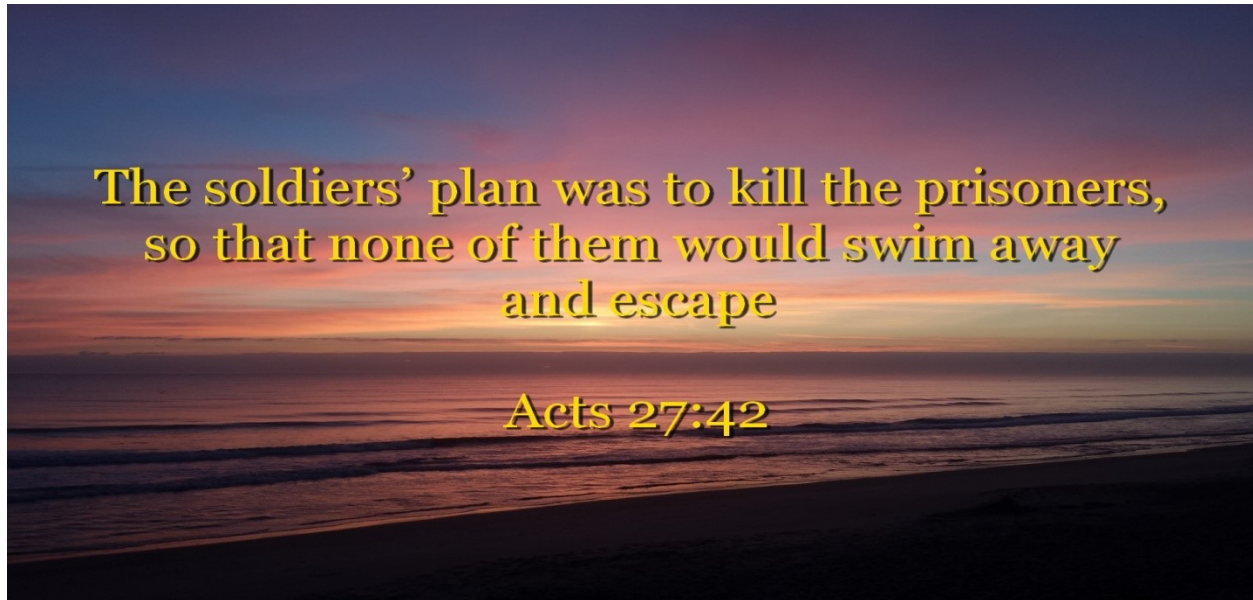
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the ship break into pieces. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding God's plan would be to use parts of the ship as transport for the people on board to get to land safely?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 974

Plan Today



What were the soldiers planning to do? The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners.

If Roman soldiers lost prisoners of Rome, then they may have to pay with their life. Therefore, if any of the prisoners managed to swim away and escape during the shipwreck, the soldiers may have to pay with their lives. Imagine surviving the shipwreck after the storm only to have your life taken by your commanding officer because you lost the prisoners.

Julius the centurion had shown Paul great kindness at Caesarea. He allowed Paul's friends to minister to him while in custody. Also, Aristarchus and Luke accompanied Paul to Rome. Furthermore, Julius had heard Paul warn against leaving the harbor at Fair Havens. Likewise, Paul had also promised that everyone would reach the beach safely.

The time had arrived to test the resolve of Julius. Would he help Paul survive or would he go along with the other soldiers and just kill all the prisoners so that they would not have their lives at risk? Of course, we know

that Paul was told he would appear in Rome. God also gave the guarantee that all the other prisoners would arrive safely on the beach.

Prisoners

1. **Soldiers**. What were the soldiers planning on doing? The soldiers were planning on killing the prisoners.

2. **Plan**. They formulated their plan because they were worried about the prisoners escaping.

3. **Kill**. If any prisoner escaped, then the soldier may have to pay with his life, so they decided it was easier and safer to kill the prisoners.

4. **Prisoners**. By killing the prisoners, the soldiers increased their own safety.

5. **None**. As the boat was breaking up at the stern, the soldiers understood that prisoners could escape in the chaos.

6. **Swim**. Living holy in the family of God means that some prisoners might be tempted to swim away in the chaos of shipwreck, but God had other ways to preserve the lives of everybody onboard.

7. **Escape**. We rejoice today because although the soldiers feared escape by the prisoners, God intended for everyone to make it safely to the beach.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting God to overcome the evil plans of soldiers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God works in many ways to achieve His goals.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how God spared the life of every prisoner when the soldiers wanted to kill them.**

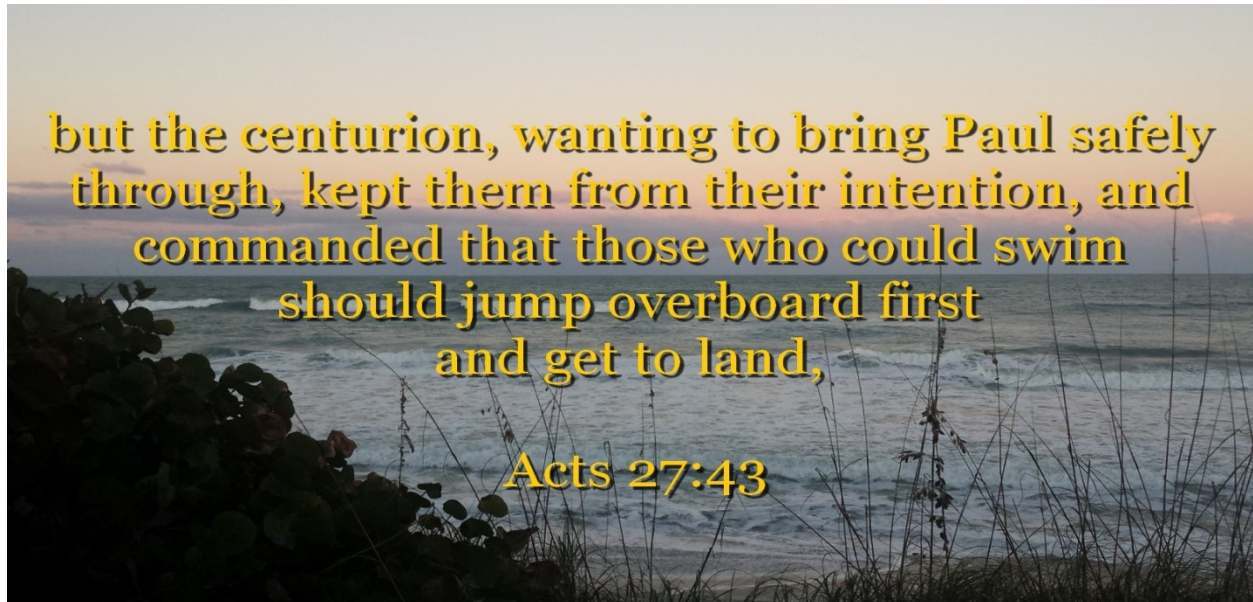
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to keep His word, even when the soldiers intended to kill the prisoners. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering how God kept the prisoners alive during the shipwreck?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 975

Centurion Today



What did the centurion command? The centurion wanted to keep Paul safe and so kept other soldiers from their intention to kill the prisoners.

The centurion had a plan for getting the prisoners to the beach. First, he had to stop the other soldiers from killing the prisoners. As a centurion he had authority to accomplish his will and the soldiers complied. Second, he commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to the land.

The centurion meant for some of his soldiers to accompany some of the prisoners to the beach. Those that could swim, both soldiers and prisoners, would be in the first wave of people heading to the beach. The centurion also had a plan for dealing with those prisoners who could not swim. You may recall that people on board had not been eating regularly and had therefore lost much of their strength. Swimming to the beach posed a hazard for everyone on board, some more than others.

The centurion was cool under pressure both from the soldiers and from the shipwreck. As the boat was breaking up below them, the soldiers now had to act quickly to get everyone to the beach.

Commanded

1. **Centurion**. How did God use the centurion? God used the centurion to save the life of all the prisoners, including Paul.

2. **Wanting**. Julius was not wanting Paul to die and so took action to preserve the life of all the prisoners.

3. **Safely**. Julius wanted to bring Paul safely through the shipwreck.

4. **Intention**. In order to keep Paul alive, Julius had to stop the plans of the other soldiers to kill all the prisoners.

5. **Commanded**. Julius commanded those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to the land.

6. **Swim**. Living holy in the family of God means that Julius allowed the prisoners to swim to safety.

7. **Overboard**. We rejoice today because some prisoners jumped overboard along with some soldiers and they all got to the land safely without the loss of a single life.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that some soldiers seek to restrain other soldiers from taking lives without cause.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by being careful not to trample upon the wellbeing of other people for our own safety.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to protect us from evil tyrants.**

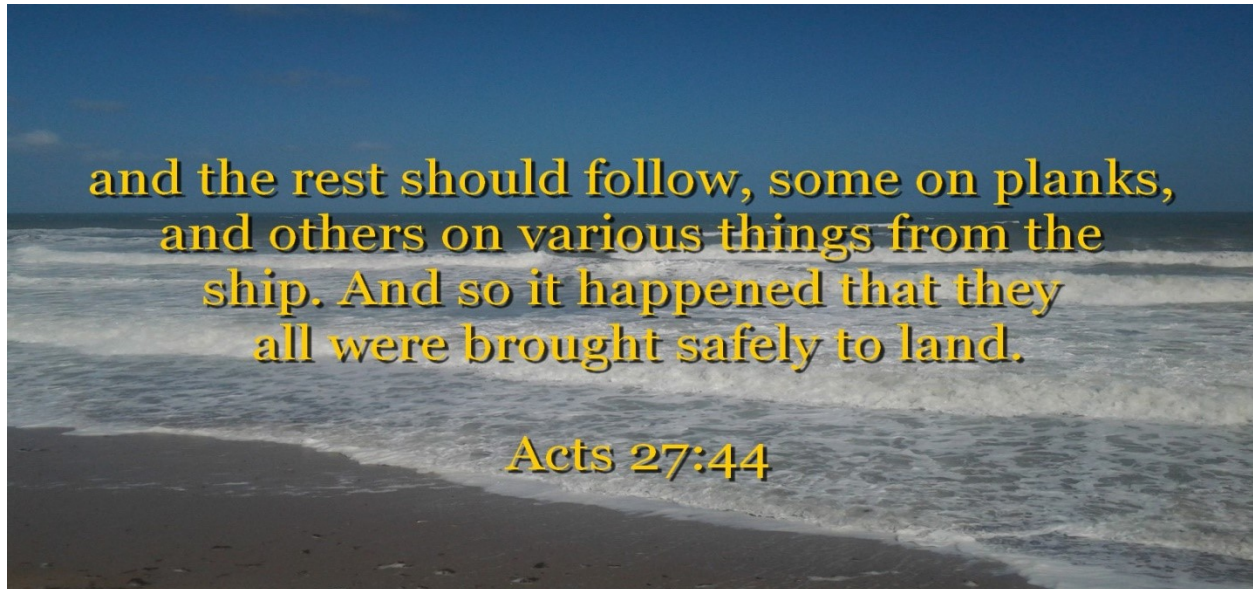
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Julius saving Paul's life, and others, on the ship as it broke into pieces. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the steps He takes to preserve life during catastrophes?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 976

Follow Today



How did everybody get safely to land? The swimmers went first, followed by people on planks and other floating objects.

An angel appeared to Paul during the storm. The angel delivered a message from God. The message indicated that the ship would be lost, but everybody onboard would make it to land safely.

When the soldiers on board understood the ship was being broken up by the waves and current, they immediately determined to kill the prisoners to prevent their escape. Julius intervened as the centurion and halted their plan. Instead, he ordered the prisoners and soldiers who could swim to make it to the beach. The others would follow on planks and other floating objects.

Just as God had promised, everyone made it to the beach safely. The only questions remained about where they were and what their next steps would be. Having survived the terrible storm in many days at sea, where were they and how could they proceed?

Now that everybody was safely on the beach, food and shelter still remained a concern. Furthermore, the prisoners had to be taken care of and safely under guard.

Safely

1. **Rest**. How did the rest of the people on board get to land? They used various floating objects from the ship to float to land.
2. **Planks**. Some people got on planks from the ship as it was breaking up.
3. **Various**. Others used various items from the boat that floated.
4. **Ship**. The ship was in the process of being destroyed by the wind, waves and current.
5. **All**. Even so, all the people on board were heading to shore.
6. **Brought**. Living holy in the family of God means that God did as He promised and brought every person on board the ship safely to the beach.
7. **Land**. We rejoice today because God always keeps His promises and helps us find the land.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering 276 people making it safely to shore and no one perished.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the faithfulness of God to everyone.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to get everyone safely to land, just as He promised.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to help us find safety in Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering God bringing 276 people safely to land?

HALLELUJAH!

5

Malta

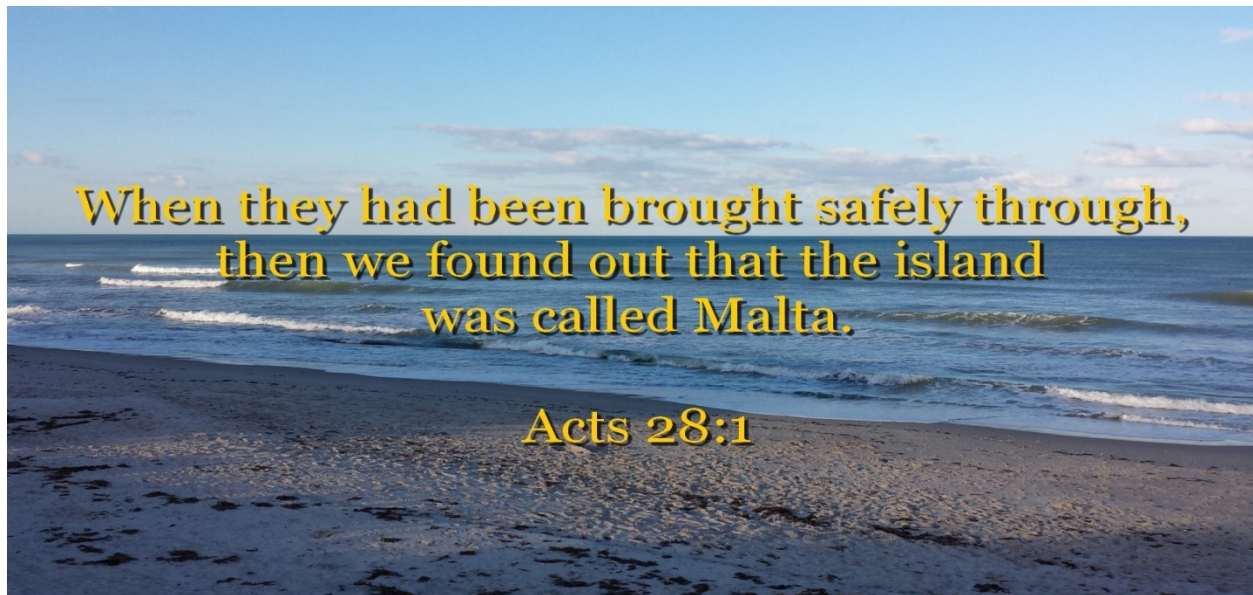
Today

Everyone onboard the ship made it safely to the beach on Malta after the ship broke apart on the reef. As Paul gathered sticks and brought them to the fire prepared by the locals to warm the shipwreck victims, a viper fastened on his hand. Paul shook the viper off and it fell into the fire. People then concluded falsely that Paul must be a murder, because he survived the shipwreck, but God still wanted to kill. After waiting to see if Paul would swell up and die, but nothing happened, they quickly change their minds and said that Paul was a god.

Paul then began his ministry in the island of Malta. He first healed the father of Publius, a leading man of the island. The rest of the people on the island and came to Paul to be cured. They honored the ministry team with many marks of respect, and provision them for their voyage.

Day 977

Island Today



What island had they landed on? They had landed on the island of Malta.

The island of Malta lies about 62 miles south of the island of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea which lies south of Italy. God had arranged for the people on the island of Malta to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from Paul. Wherever Paul went, he proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. At times, miracles also attended his ministry.

The sailors and the passengers had seen the ship wrecked and destroyed on the reefs near the island. Just as God had promised during the storm through an angel, no life was lost and everybody made it to the beach safely. 276 people on board all lived to reach the beach. During much of the time in the storm, the people on board had lost all hope of surviving, except Paul. Paul knew he was going to Rome because Jesus had told him so.

As the storm raged and the winds blew, Paul stood as a beacon of God's light in total darkness. He told everyone that he had seen an angel from God. The revelation he received through the angel told him the ship would be lost, but everyone would be okay, making it safely the land.

Malta

1. **When**. What did they find out the name of the island? They found out when they were brought safely through.
2. **Brought**. God had brought 276 people safely through the storm and through shipwreck and all the way to the beach.
3. **Safely**. God promised not a hair of their heads would be lost and they would be brought safely to the beach.
4. **We**. The 'we' here indicates that Luke was with Aristarchus and Paul.
5. **Found**. Having landed on the island, they found out the name of the island.
6. **Island**. Living holy in the family of God means that God brought 276 people safely to the island of Malta.
7. **Malta**. We rejoice today because the people of Malta would now be blessed with Paul proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul and the others were brought safely to Malta.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon God to keep His word so that even the prisoners were brought safely to land.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how God brought so many people through such a storm and all the way to safety on the beach.**

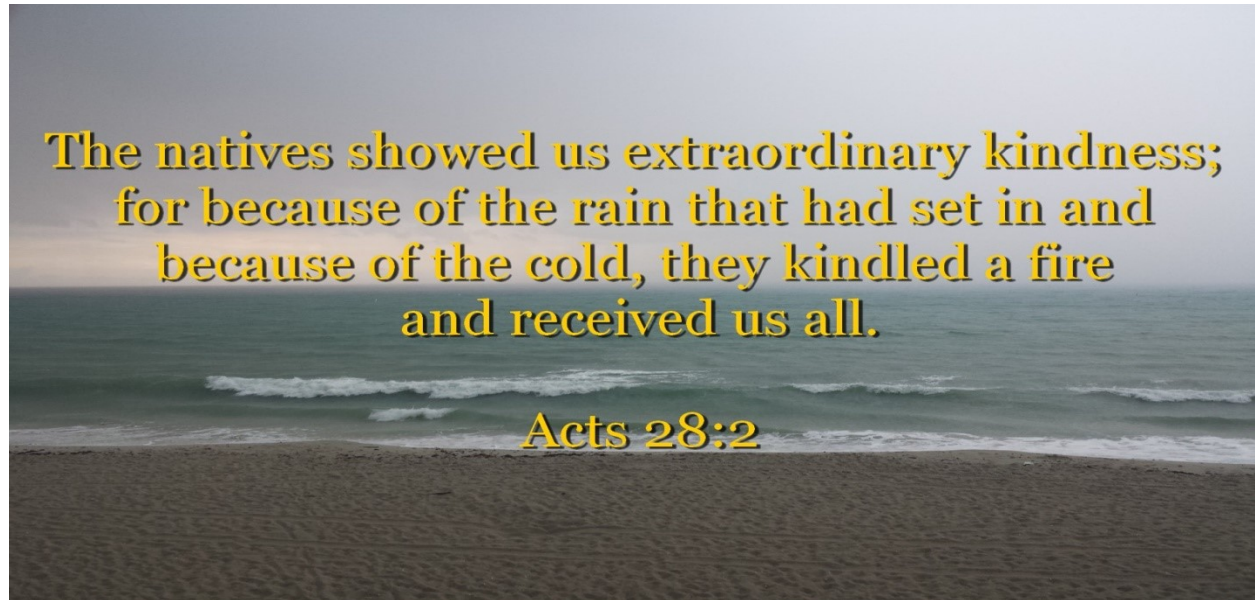
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God to overcome all physical problems. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering how so many people overcame a devastating shipwreck?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 978

Natives Today



What did the natives of Malta do? They showed the people from the boat extraordinary kindness.

The people of Malta received all the people from the boat. As the rain fell, the people of Malta kindled a fire to provide some warmth for the people from the boat. With 276 people suddenly appearing on their island, life on Malta had changed instantly. Many mouths now needed food, clothing and shelter.

Paul would repay the kindness of the people of Malta with the proclamation of eternal life in Jesus Christ the risen Savior. Paul had been around the Mediterranean area proclaiming Christ in Asia and Europe. He had been through many tough times and he had spent a night and a day in the deep. He had been beaten many times and left for dead after being stoned.

Paul was no stranger to hard times. Those times, however, had taught him to rely upon the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul knew during the storm that everything would work out and his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ helped

everyone on board. He told them to take food and build their strength just before they would need to swim to shore.

Kindness

1. **Natives**. What did the natives of Malta do? They showed the people from the ship extraordinary kindness.

2. **Kindness**. The people from the ship had swum to shore.

3. **Rain**. The rain was coming down upon the people from the ship who were already soaked. The weather was cold.

4. **Cold**. The weather was cold and the people from the ship needed some real help.

5. **Fire**. The natives started a fire to provide some warmth for the people from the ship.

6. **Received**. Living holy in the family of God means that the people of Malta received the people from the ship with extraordinary kindness, even building a fire for them.

7. **All**. We rejoice today because the people of Malta received all the people from the ship, including the prisoners and the soldiers.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the extraordinary kindness of the people of Malta.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by helping those people who have survived great disasters.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by extending extraordinary kindness to people who suffered shipwreck.**

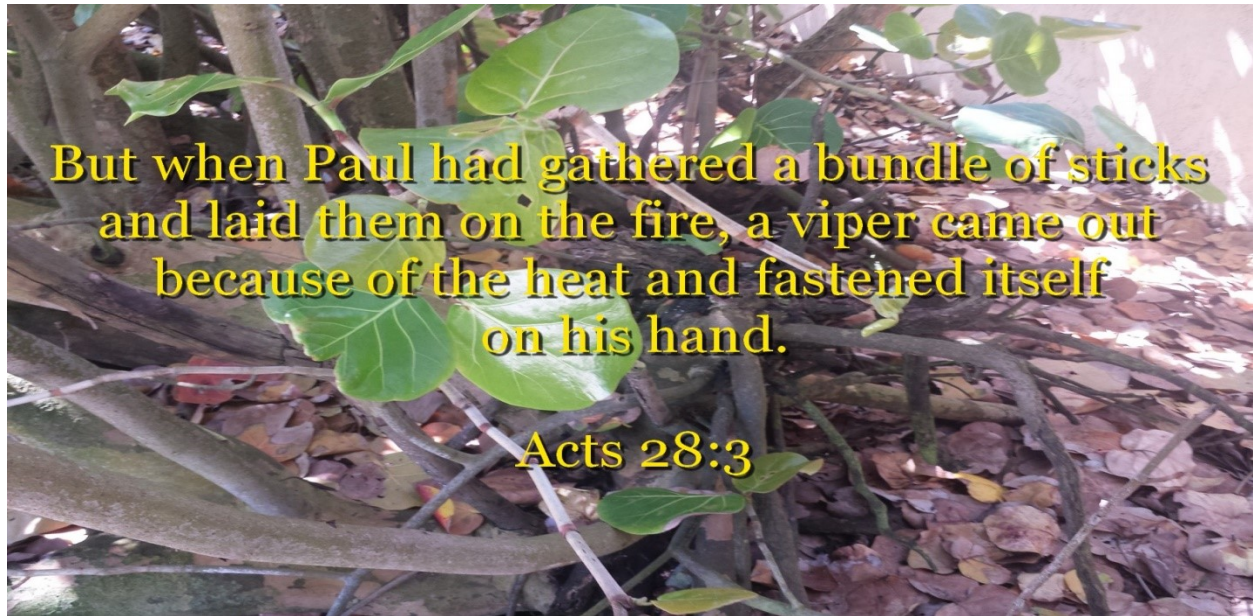
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering to show extraordinary kindness to all the people God puts before us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by showing kindness to people who need shelter from the weather?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 979

Viper Today



What happened to Paul while he was gathering sticks? A large viper fastened itself on his hand.

The people of Malta received the passengers and crew with kindness. They had built a fire for the people from the boat. Being ever diligent, Paul went to collect sticks for the fire. He bundled a group of sticks and laid them on the fire.

As Paul laid the sticks on the fire, the heat drove a viper out of the bundle and it fastened upon Paul's hand. Paul had survived a terrible storm and a shipwreck, but now was bitten by a viper that threatened his very life.

The people of Malta noticed the viper dangling from Paul's hand. The only question would be what would happen to Paul next. Would Paul suffer for a long time or a short time? With a viper dangling from his hand, everyone suddenly doubted whether or not God was helping Paul at all.

People would naturally tend to leap to the conclusion that the viper bit Paul because God had allowed it. While Paul may have survived the storm

and the shipwreck, in the eyes of the people of Malta he was still a prisoner under guard. He must be guilty of something they thought and so the viper bit him.

Hand

1. **Paul**. What happened when Paul gathered up a bundle of sticks? A viper clung to his hand.
2. **Gathered**. Paul gathered sticks to put on the fire.
3. **Bundle**. He bundled them together and brought them to the fire.
4. **Sticks**. Those sticks would keep the fire going for a while, providing more warmth to the rain-soaked people from the ship.
5. **Fire**. The people of Malta had built a fire for the people of the ship.
6. **Viper**. Living holy in the family of God means that although a viper from the fire fastened itself to Paul's hand, God would use that viper for His glory.
7. **Hand**. We rejoice today because the viper on Paul's hand became an instant symbol to the people around him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the viper hanging from Paul's hand.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some snakes can be used to bring great glory to God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never jumping to the wrong conclusion quickly.**

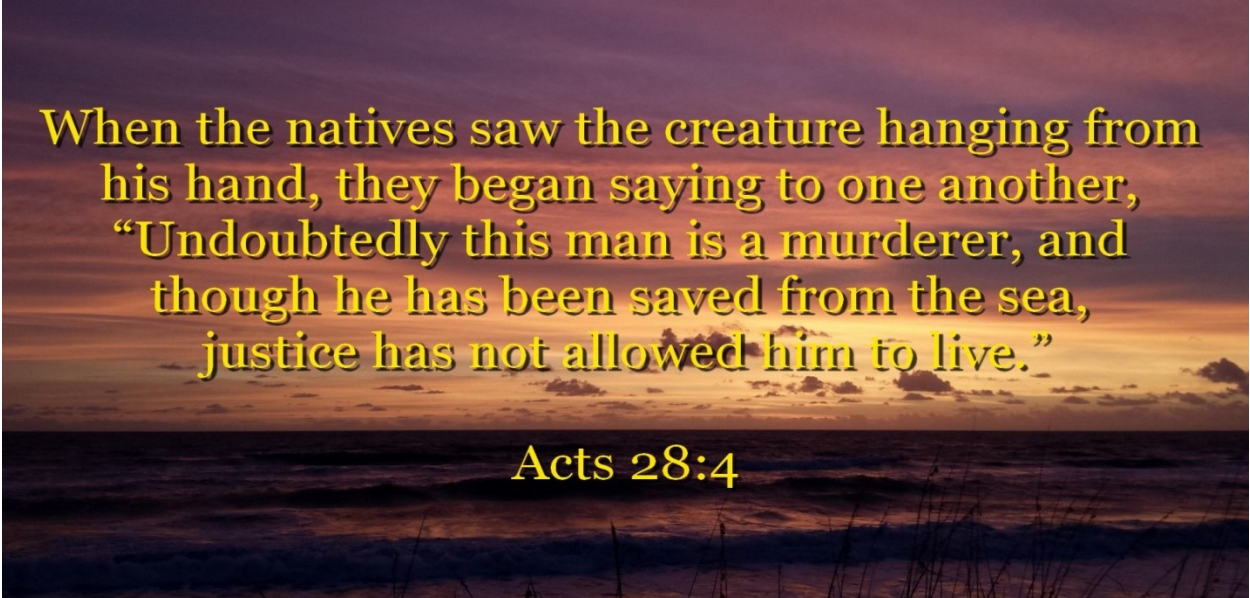
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that just because a viper is hanging from your hand does not mean that God intended to punish you. Will you live holy in the family of God today by holding back on your judgment until you learn all the facts?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 980

Murderer Today



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.”

Acts 28:4

What conclusions did the people of Malta jump to? They immediately concluded that Paul suffered justly from the viper.

The people of Malta showed extraordinary kindness to the people from the ship. When they saw Paul with a viper dangling from his hand, they leapt to several conclusions.

First, they concluded that this man was a murderer. Like so many people, they immediately assumed the worst. In this case they could see that Paul was still chained and under guard by the Roman soldiers. When he collected the sticks and bundled them together, a viper came out of the sticks and fastened on his hand as he was putting the sticks into the fire. Because they knew he was a prisoner, most people automatically concluded that he must have been guilty of some crime. Because of the severity of the attack by the viper, they jumped to the conclusion that he must have been a murderer.

Second, they concluded falsely that justice had been served upon Paul. He had survived the shipwreck and the storm, but now justice had found him out with a viper hanging from his hand. Their sense of justice did not match

the justice of God. They jumped to all the wrong conclusions about Paul and the viper.

Justice

1. **Natives**. What conclusions did the natives of Malta reach about Paul? They concluded that he deserved to die.

2. **Creature**. The creature hanging from his hand caused an immediate and swift reaction.

3. **Hanging**. With the viper hanging off his hand, the people of Malta concluded that Paul was guilty and should die.

4. **Hand**. All the proof they needed was hanging from the hand of Paul.

5. **Murderer**. They decided instantly that he was a murderer.

6. **Justice**. Living holy in the family of God means that although God had spared Paul from the storm and the shipwreck, many people still thought justice required him to die from the viper.

7. **Live**. We rejoice today because God was going to preserve the life of Paul so he would appear in Rome, even if everyone else jumped to the conclusion that justice required that he should die and not live.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the viper hanging from Paul's hand and the people concluding that he was a murderer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by learning all the facts before we jump to hasty conclusions.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that not every snakebite means someone has sinned against God.**

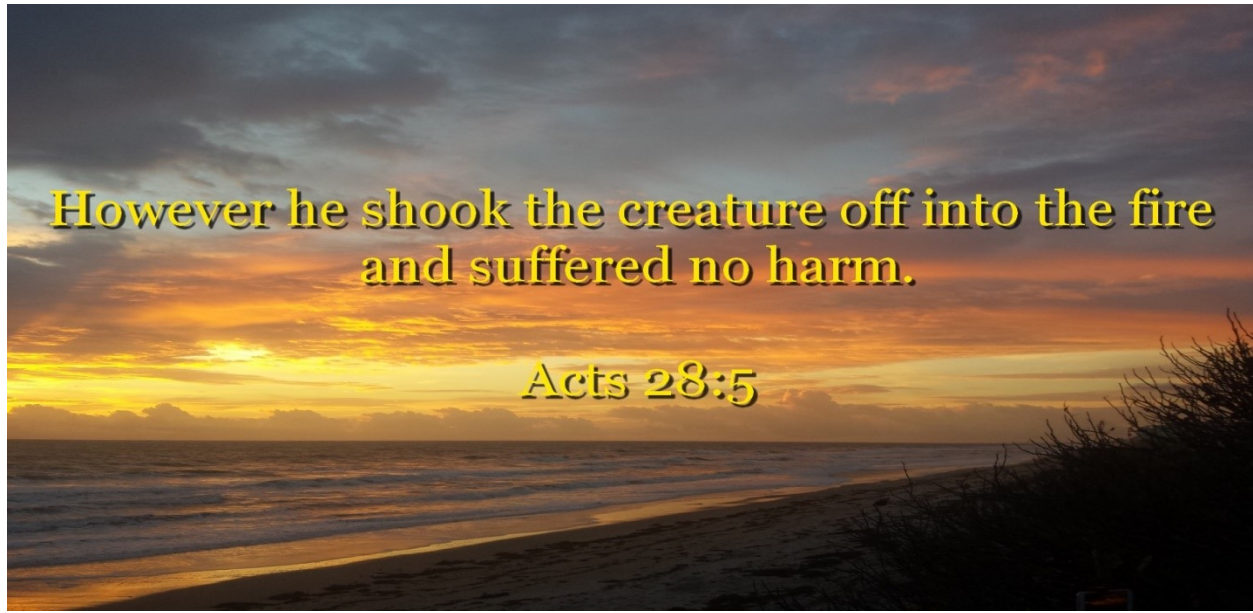
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the snake hanging from Paul's hand and everyone reaching the wrong conclusion. Will you live holy in the family of God today by avoiding hasty judgments about innocent people?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 981

Suffered Today



What did Paul do with the viper? Paul shook it off into the fire.

Paul picked up a bundle of sticks for the fire. Having brought the sticks to the fire, a viper crawled out of the bundle and fastened on Paul's hand. The people of Malta jumped to the conclusion that Paul was a murderer and could not escape justice. They thought he deserved to die for some reason, although he had survived the shipwreck.

People often jump to bad conclusions from scant evidence. In this case, the people of Malta quickly concluded that Paul was some kind of murderer because he was a prisoner in chains. When they saw the viper latch onto his hand, they quickly concluded that he was a murderer deserving death. When people make such rash and unwarranted conclusions, they only reveal their own shortsightedness.

Paul had relayed the message from the angel that everyone on the ship would make it to land safely. Paul had been bitten by the viper after landing. Of course, Paul knew he was still going to Rome. Therefore, he shook the viper off into the fire in front of everyone.

No Harm

1. **However**. What happened with the viper? Everyone saw the viper hanging from Paul's hand; Paul, however, suffered no harm.
2. **Shook**. He shook off the viper hanging on his hand.
3. **Creature**. The creature dropped off of his hand.
4. **Fire**. Paul dropped it into the fire.
5. **Suffered**. Paul suffered no harm from the viper.
6. **No**. Living holy in the family of God means that no harm came to Paul from the viper, because God wanted everyone to see His power displayed in Paul.
7. **Harm**. We rejoice today because Paul was kept from harm.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the viper hanging from Paul's hand.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God wanted to show everyone that Paul was His messenger.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the miracles that Paul worked in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ on Malta.**

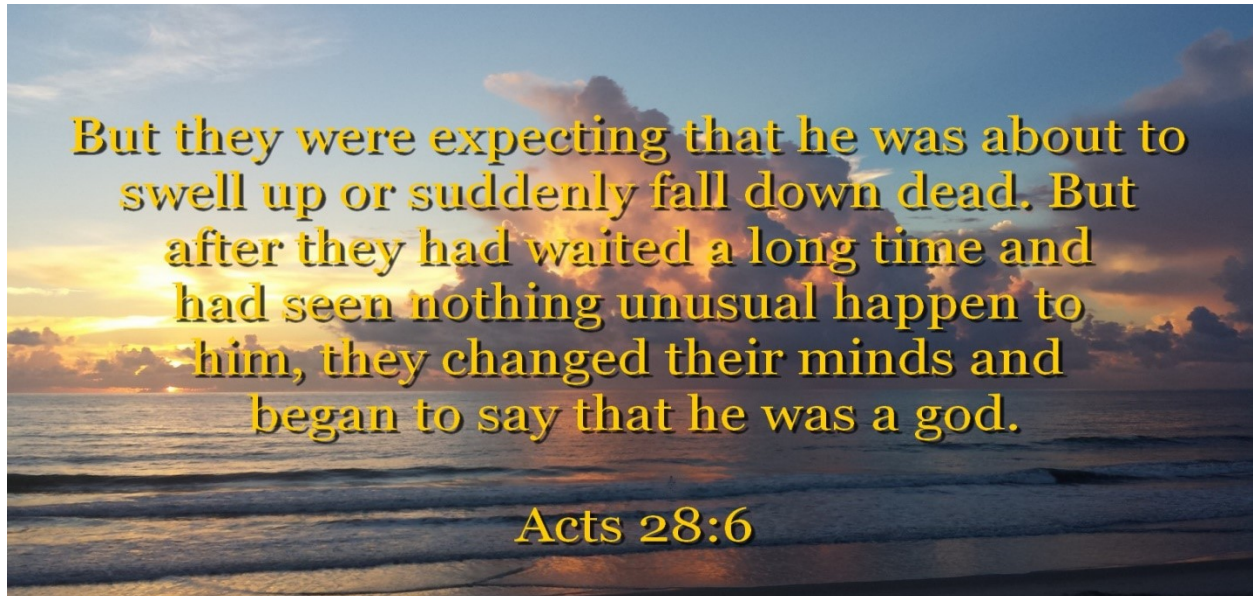
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that God uses many people in many ways to promote the Lord Jesus Christ on earth among men. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding how God does things in your life to magnify the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 982

Expecting Today



What were the people of Malta expecting from Paul? They were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead.

Paul had picked up a bundle of sticks and a viper came out and bit him. Paul shook the viper from his hand into the fire. The people of Malta jumped to the conclusion that Paul was a murderer and must die. Although he had survived the shipwreck, justice still caught up with him and he had to die, or so they thought.

Jumping to conclusions often makes you look bad. The people of Malta waited a long time and it seemed nothing unusual happened to Paul. They immediately jumped to the opposite conclusion. They thought Paul was a god. Paul had experienced such claims of deity before. Paul was not a god and never claimed to be a god or accepted any worship as a god.

The work of the Lord Jesus became apparent. He wanted everyone to know that Paul was under the protection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He had survived the shipwreck and proclaimed that no one would be lost on board. The prophecy from God was fulfilled down to the last soul on the boat. Paul

was no god, but he brought the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, his Savior and God, to the people of Malta and the viper opened their hearts to the Gospel.

Changed

1. **They**. What were the people of Malta expecting? They were expecting Paul to fall down dead.

2. **Expecting**. The people expecting Paul to die from the viper bite thought he deserved it.

3. **Swell**. The least they expected was that Paul would swell up.

4. **Dead**. Based upon their own experience with vipers, the people expected that Paul would die.

5. **Waited**. They waited for a long time, but nothing happened to Paul and he was fine.

6. **Changed**. Living holy in the family of God means that when nothing happened to Paul from the viper bite, the people change their mind about Paul.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because God saved the life of Paul, but He also magnified the Lord Jesus Christ through His servant, Paul the ambassador in chains.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that people have expectations about Christians.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by watching God change those expectations so that people believe the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming Christ Jesus to everyone.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by recognizing that God creates circumstances that promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using the circumstances that God creates for you to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 983

Publius Today



Who was Publius? He was a leading man of the island.

Publius welcomed the people from the ship. He entertained them courteously for three days. God had once again provided help for Paul and the people from the ship. The weather had been rainy and terrible and the people of Malta greeted them by making a fire for them.

God now provided further help for the people from the ship. They needed a place to stay, plus food. God provides for everyone every day. He did the same for the people of the ship through good help from the people of Malta.

God did not bring Paul through the storm only to have him die on the island of Malta. God had affirmed repeatedly to Paul that he was going to Rome. Along the way, God chose Malta as the place that Paul could evangelize with a wonderful testimony. Shaking the viper off without any harm whatsoever only increased his fame with the people of Malta. As Paul stood in chains as a prisoner of Rome, the door of the Gospel had been swung wide open again by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Entertained

1. **Neighborhood**. Who was Publius? He lived in the neighborhood of the place where they landed and was a leading man of the Island of Malta.

2. **Place**. He owned lands in that place.

3. **Lands**. Those lands provided a nice place for the people to stay for a few days.

4. **Belonging**. Publius knew how to put those lands belonging to him to good use.

5. **Publius**. Publius invited the people from the ship to stay on his lands for a few days.

6. **Welcomed**. Living holy in the family of God means that Publius welcomed the people from the ship to his lands.

7. **Entertained**. We rejoice today because he entertained the people from the ship on his lands for several days.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the hospitality of Publius and God's plan to have people reach the beach in his neighborhood.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by appreciating how God places us at the right place at the right time so that we meet people needing to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never overlooking the circumstances God has created in our lives to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ.**

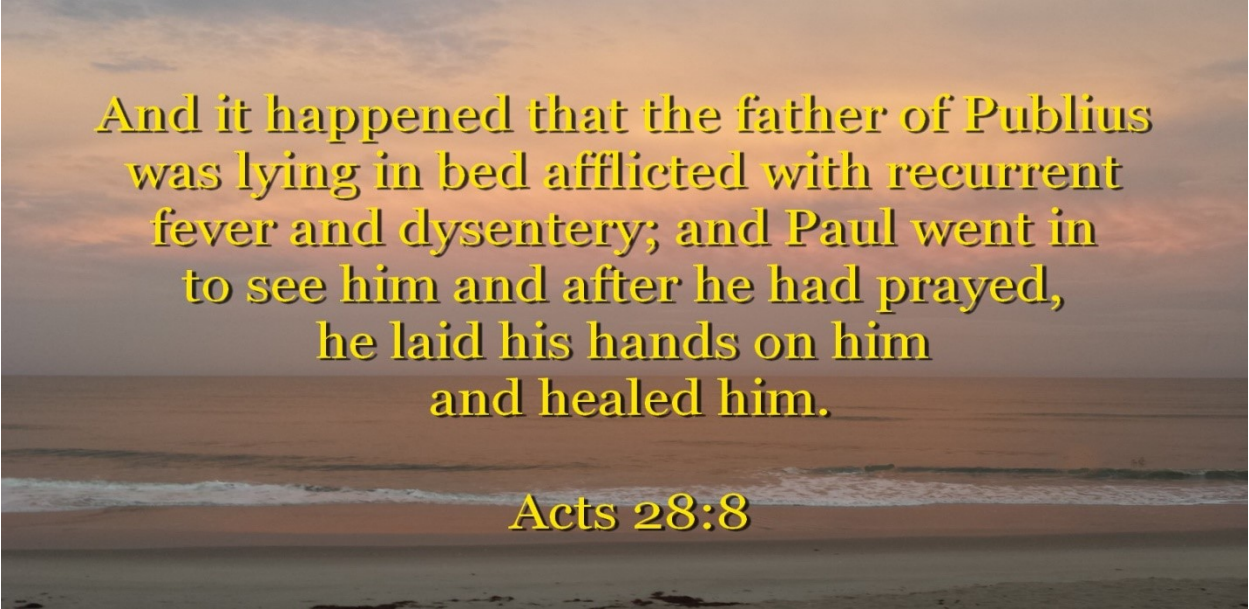
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking beyond our immediate circumstances to see people in need of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing with the people God has put before you for ministry?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 984

Fever Today



And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him.

Acts 28:8

Whom did Paul heal? Paul healed the father of Publius.

Paul's fame began on Malta with a viper hanging from his hand over the fire. He shook the viper off into the fire. Everything thought he would swell up and die, because he must be a murderer to survive the shipwreck and then be bitten by a viper on land. When he showed no ill effects from the viper, the people of Malta concluded that he must be a god.

Publius took Paul and the people from the ship into his own home. While there, Paul learned that the father of Publius was lying in bed, afflicted with recurring dysentery and fever. Paul wanted to see him and laid his hands upon him. Paul healed that man and everyone knew it.

Julius the centurion had given Paul a measure of freedom in Caesarea. On Malta Paul enjoyed some degree of freedom as well. He was allowed to visit the father of Publius. Paul had worked another great miracle in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul would use those miracles to proclaim the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of all men. Paul

consistently used every opportunity to tell people about the great love of the Lord Jesus Christ and His offer of salvation by faith alone.

Healed

1. **Father**. What happened with the father of Publius? Paul healed him.
2. **Fever**. The father of Publius was lying in bed with a fever.
3. **Dysentery**. He also had recurring dysentery.
4. **Prayed**. Paul wanted to see him and prayed.
5. **Hands**. Paul also prayed for him and laid his hands upon him.
6. **Healed**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used the hands of Paul to heal the father of Publius.
7. **Him**. We rejoice today because God healed him and everyone would take notice.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how God sent Paul to Malta to heal the father of Publius.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding how God saves lives through human hands operating under His control.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by using our time and talents for the glory of God as He presents opportunities for ministry.**

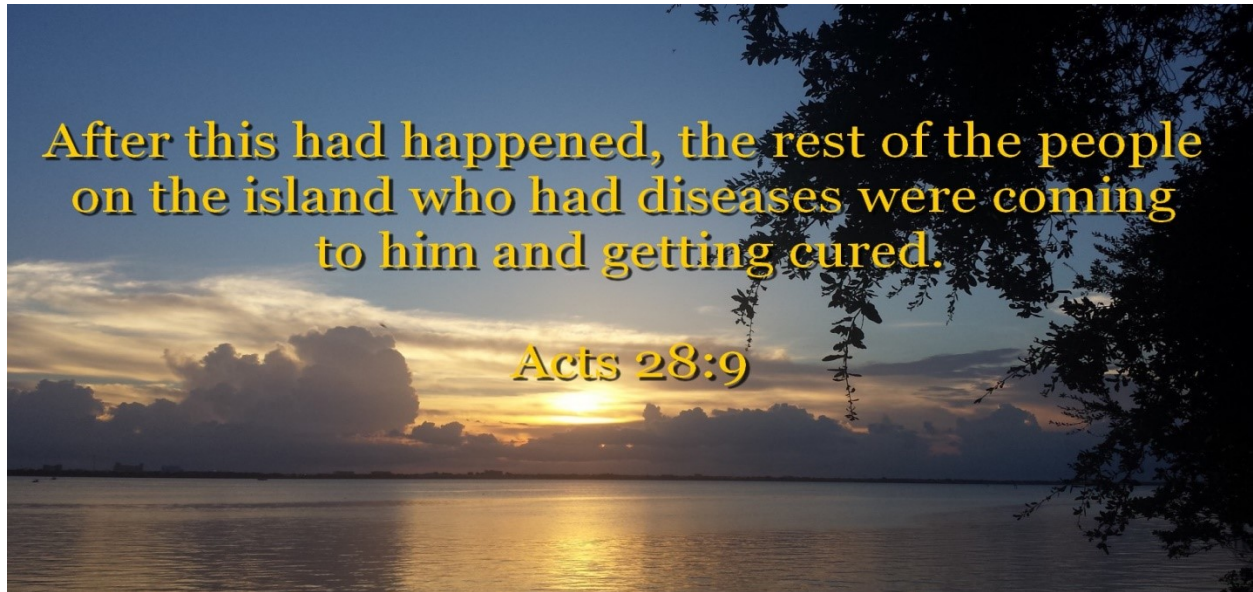
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul healing the father of Publius. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding how God arranged for Paul to survive shipwreck and come to the island of Malta, work miracles, and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 985

Diseases Today



What did the rest of the people on the island of Malta do? They brought everyone having diseases to Paul and he cured them.

God had spared the life of Paul during the shipwreck. God again spared the life of Paul before all the people of Malta as he shook the viper off into the fire, and then Paul suffered no ill effects.

Paul performed the healing on Malta for the father of Publius. News about Paul healing Publius spread quickly. People with diseases were coming to him from all over the island. Like Jesus before him, Paul healed all the people with diseases on the island of Malta.

Julius the centurion had granted Paul a measure of freedom. With the miracles Julius watched, he must have known that God was with Paul. Julius had allowed the friends of Paul to minister to him. Now Julius allowed him to minister to all the people on the island of Malta. Julius' task remained the same. He had to deliver Paul in chains to Rome for his appeal to Caesar.

While Publius was rejoicing over the healing of his father, Paul was busy healing everyone else on the island. The great light of the Lord Jesus Christ was shining on the island of Malta.

Cured

1. **After**. What happened after people heard about Paul healing the father of Publius? They all came to see Paul.
2. **Rest**. The rest of the people on the island of Malta began flocking to Paul.
3. **People**. The people had heard about the great power of God at work in Paul.
4. **Island**. People from all over the island came to see Paul for healing.
5. **Diseases**. Those people had many different kinds of diseases.
6. **Coming**. Living holy in the family of God means that after Paul healed the father of Publius, people from all over Malta were coming to see Paul.
7. **Healed**. We rejoice today because Paul healed all the people of Malta with various diseases.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the streams of people coming to see Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding how God moved on the island of Malta so that they would turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how God used the shipwreck on Malta to bring salvation to people on that island.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how God drew people from all over the island to Paul for healing and much more. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking for people that God brings to you for salvation?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 986

Honored Today



How did the people of Malta respond to Paul? They supplied them with all they needed as they sailed away.

Paul arrived on Malta after the shipwreck. The people of Malta then saw him shake off a viper off into the fire with no ill effects. Then he healed the father of Publius, a leading citizen of the island of Malta. News of that healing spread quickly and all the people with diseases on the island of Malta came to see Paul.

The people even tried to honor Paul as a god. Paul used the opportunity to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul did that wherever he went. One measure of the gratitude of the people of Malta was their gift of all they needed on the ship as they sailed away. The people of Malta had benefited greatly from Paul coming ashore on their island.

Just as the angel had said, not a soul was lost from the ship as they shipwrecked and made their way to the beach. Likewise, Julius was vindicated for not killing the prisoners on board because all the prisoners

made their way to the beach to and not one escaped. Now Julius and the prisoners were once again heading to Rome.

Supplied

1. **They**. How did the people of Malta treat Paul and his companions? They honored them.

2. **Honored**. Paul had healed many people of their diseases on the island of Malta. In return the people honored Paul.

3. **Us**. Paul traveled with Aristarchus and Luke and they said that the people honored us.

4. **Respect**. Paul had brought the message of salvation in Jesus Christ and many miracles of healing to the island of Malta. In return, the people of Malta paid respect.

5. **Setting**. As Paul and his companions were setting sail from the island of Malta, the people of Malta helped Paul and his companions.

6. **Sail**. Living holy in the family of God means that as Paul and his companions set sail from the island of Malta, the people of Malta showed their respect.

7. **Supplied**. We rejoice today because they supplied Paul and his companions with all they needed for their voyage to Rome.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the people of Malta paying their respects to Paul and his companions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some people can be very grateful for the ministry among them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by respecting the people who proclaim the word of God.**

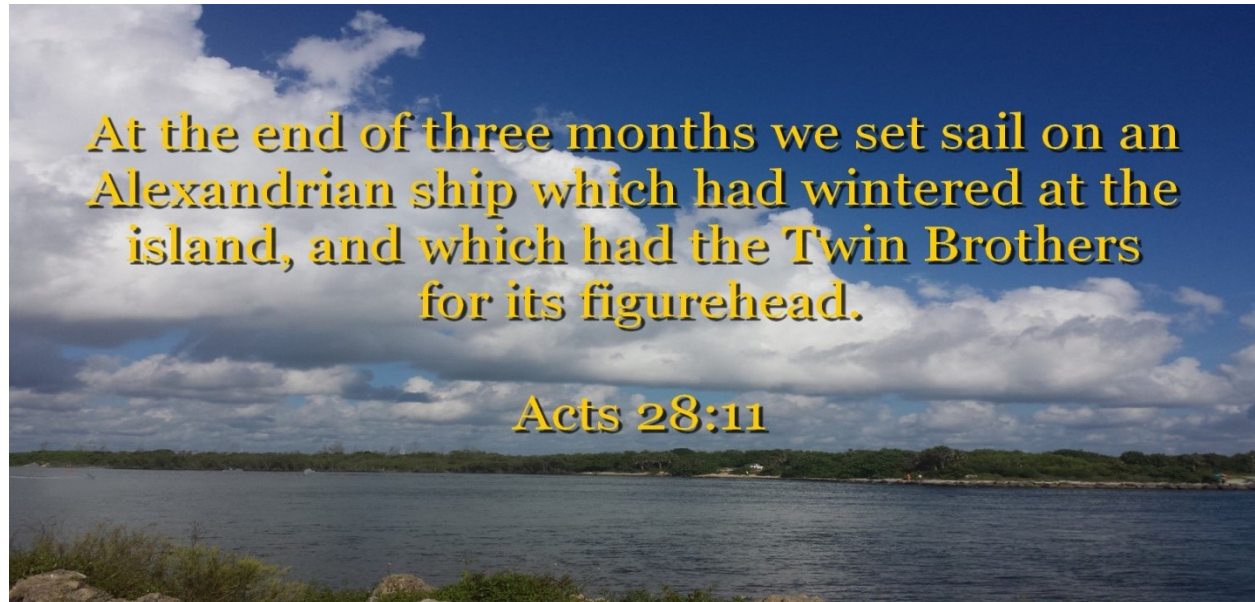
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the people of Malta showing their gratitude to Paul and his companions. Will you live holy in the family of God today by supplying the needs of people who ministered to you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 987

Alexandrian Ship Today



What transportation did Julius arrange? Julius found passage on another Alexandrian ship.

Julius first had found passage on Alexandrian ship which held over 200 passengers, but that ship was lost on the island of Malta. Those large grain ships moved tremendous cargo and a large number of passengers. The new ship had wintered on the island of Malta in safety. The new ship had the twin brothers for its figurehead. Castor and Pollux where the twins of Roman idolatry and had their own temple in Rome.

Many sailors clung to their idols for safety. As the sailors on board the first Alexandrian ship found out, their gods could do nothing to save them from shipwreck. The God Paul served predicted the shipwrecked, but also carried everyone safely through the shipwreck to the beach.

Paul was once again bound for Rome after three months on the island of Malta. Paul had been on the island healing people of all their diseases. God had provided a beautiful opportunity for him to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to many people on that island.

Figurehead

1. **Three**. What happened after three months? Paul and his companions set sail from Malta.
2. **Sail**. They set sail from Malta on a new ship.
3. **Alexandrian**. An Alexandrian ship had wintered in a harbor on the island of Malta.
4. **Wintered**. That other Alexandrian ship had avoided the storm and had wintered out the bad weather in a safe harbor on Malta.
5. **Island**. The island of Malta had claimed one Alexandrian ship, but provided safe harbor for another.
6. **Twin**. Living holy in the family of God means that the sailors on board the second Alexandrian ship were idolaters who placed the twin brothers on the prow of their ship.
7. **Figurehead**. We rejoice today because Paul and his companions were boarding another ship on their way to Italy and would be sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people on board a ship with a figurehead of the twin brothers.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Alexandrian ship and had wintered safely at the island of Malta.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the need to find safe harbor before gigantic storms take you to shipwreck.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering those traveling long distances through difficult conditions for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

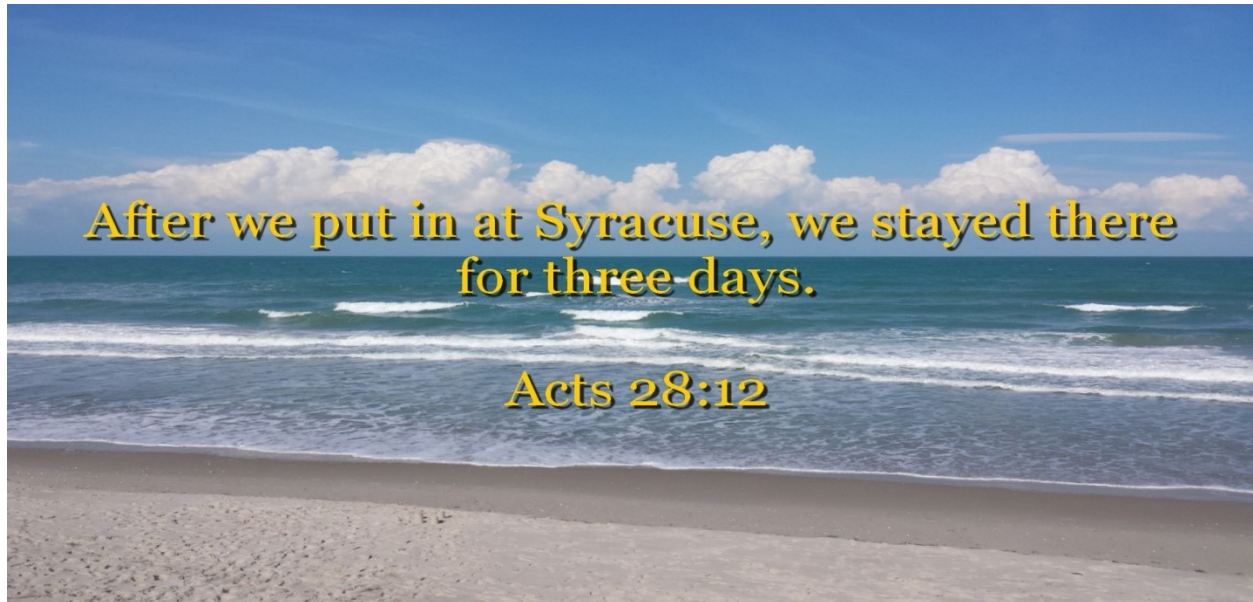
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering how one Alexandrian ship safely weathered the winter and its storms while another broke up not far away. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering to seek safe shelter before the storms of winter approach?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 988

Syracuse Today



Where did Paul go after leaving Malta? The ship sailed to Syracuse.

During Paul's time, Syracuse was a city known for its size, culture and splendor. At one time, Syracuse was a major Mediterranean power. Its military strength brought it wealth and glory. The city had theaters, amphitheaters, and scholars like Archimedes. Situated on the southeast coast of Sicily, Syracuse exercised influence over the Ionian Sea.

Paul spent three days at Syracuse. As Paul journeyed towards Rome, he had made many stops along the way. Ships would often unload cargo and take on new supplies and new cargo. They would also board new passengers and some others would disembark.

Because of the relative freedoms that Julius gave to Paul, he had the habit of spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ while waiting. Wherever Paul went, we see him speaking about Christ in Asia and Europe and in the land of Israel and Judea. Julius had already seen everybody on the island of Malta healed of their diseases. Julius, having custody of Paul, had

witnessed the power of God on the ship, at the fire on the beach, and with the healing of the father of Publius, and then many others on the Island of Malta.

Three Days

1. **After**. Having left Malta, where was Paul heading? The ship was sailing for Syracuse.

2. **Put**. The Alexandrian ship put in at Syracuse because it had a nice harbor.

3. **Syracuse**. The city of Syracuse located on the island of Sicily provided a place to pick up people and unload cargo.

4. **We**. Luke wrote that we stayed there in the city of Syracuse.

5. **Stayed**. They stayed for three days.

6. **Three**. Living holy in the family of God means that for three days Paul and his companions stayed in Syracuse, a once thriving metropolis of great power and culture.

7. **Days**. We rejoice today because Paul spent three days in Syracuse and he customarily proclaimed Christ everywhere he went.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how Luke recorded the precise details of the sea voyage to Rome.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul went to Syracuse and spent three days there.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking time to rest and relax, even when chained up for the sake of Christ.**

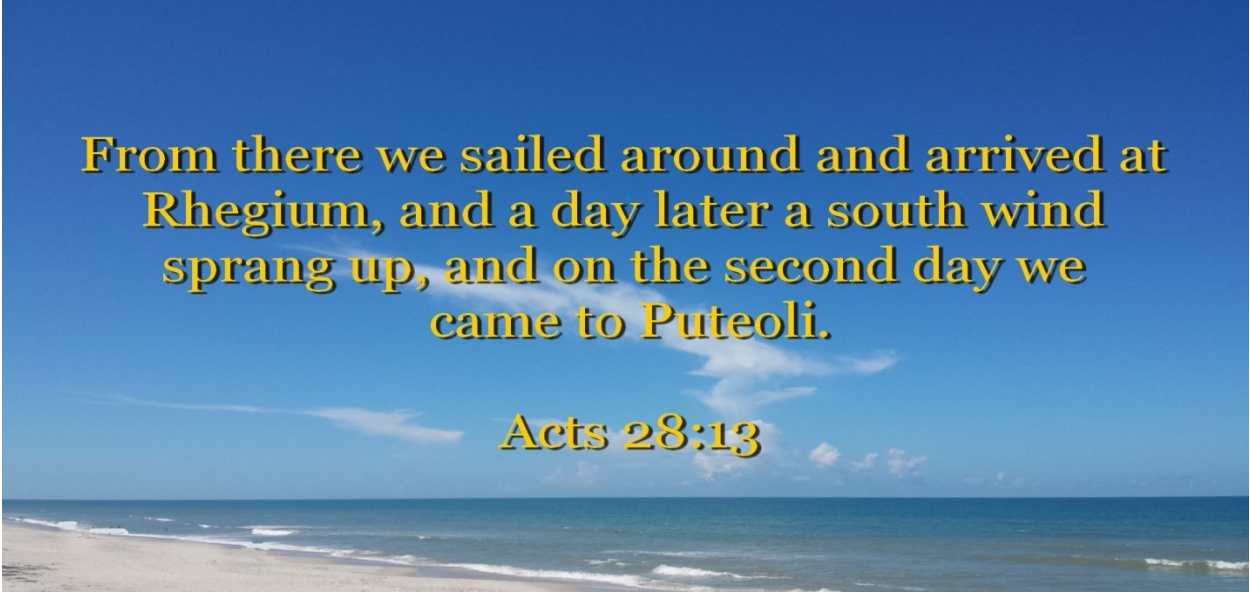
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul at Syracuse taking three days out of the journey to Rome. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking each step along the journey with the knowledge that the Lord Jesus guides us every day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 989

Rhegium Today



From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

Acts 28:13

Where was the next destination for Paul? Paul sailed next to Rhegium.

Rhegium is situated on the tip of Italy's toe. It lay on the eastern shore of the Strait of Messina, opposite the city of Messina on the island of Sicily. At one time the people of Rhegium had asked Rome for protection during the Carthaginian wars. Rome supplied a garrison of men, but they sacked the city instead of protecting it. About 271 BC, the Roman army punished the garrison and gave the city back to its original citizens. Seeing Rhegium provided the first sight of Italy, signaling that Paul's destination was finally coming near after many dark and desperate days.

A day after arriving at Rhegium, a south wind blew and on the second day the ship sailed for Puteoli, a harbor city on the north side of the Gulf of Naples. The area around Puteoli was known for its thermal baths and volcanic craters and caldera. Magma chambers below the surface filled and emptied, causing earthquakes and tremors. The harbor at Puteoli provided a safe place for ships because Rome itself had no safe harbors. Sea trade and maritime traffic heading to Rome flowed through Puteoli. Paul had finally made it safely to the shores of Italy, heading to Rome.

Puteoli

1. **Sailed**. Where did they sail after Syracuse? They sailed to Rhegium.
2. **Rhegium**. They had reached Italy when they saw Rhegium, on the tip of the toe of Italy.
3. **Day**. From Rhegium they sailed on towards Rome each day.
4. **Later**. A day later they found favorable winds.
5. **South**. Pushing up from the south, the new wind propelled them towards their destination.
6. **Second**. Living holy in the family of God means that Luke recorded the detail that on the second day they arrived in Puteoli.
7. **Puteoli**. We rejoice today because at Puteoli Paul and his companions found a harbor and the ship anchored there.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the details Luke included in the journey to Rome.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He always keeps His promises and Paul would end up in Rome.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by greeting visitors who come our way in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the sea voyage of Paul landing him finally in Puteoli. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking courage for the voyage God has for you?

HALLELUJAH!

6

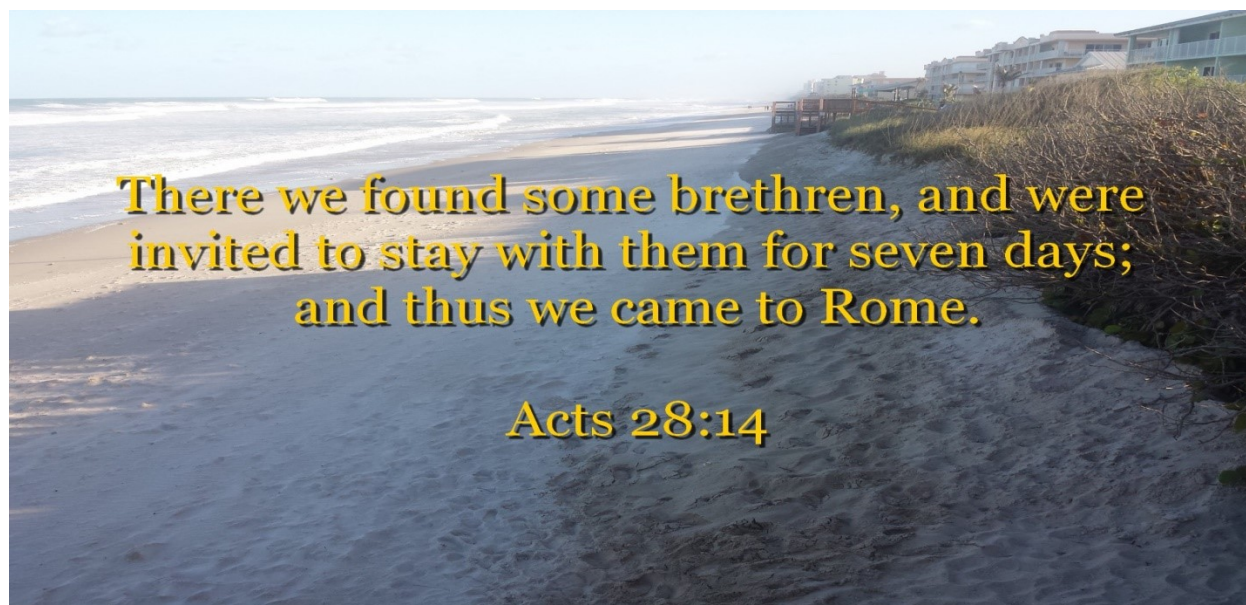
Rome

Arrival Today

After three months on the island of Malta, Paul and the ministry team and the soldiers set sail for Rome. They stayed three days in Syracuse of Sicily on the way to Rome, arriving later at Puteoli in Italy, where they stayed seven days at the invitation of the brethren there. When Paul arrived in Rome, he was allowed to stay by himself, with a soldier guarding him. Paul met with the leading men of the Jews and proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ to them, from morning until evening, solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the law of Moses and from the prophets. Some believed, but others did not. After they rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul quoted Scripture and declared that he was now turning to the Gentiles. They would listen to the word of salvation from the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father. Paul stayed a full two years in his rented quarters in Rome, teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Day 990

Brethren Today



What did Paul do in Puteoli? Paul found some brethren.

The brethren at Puteoli extended friendship and hospitality to Paul. Julius the centurion had consistently granted some measure of freedom to Paul. In fact, during the shipwreck, Julius had saved the life of Paul and the other prisoners from the intention of the other soldiers to kill all the prisoners to keep them from escaping. Julius had helped Paul in many ways. Julius had witnessed the power of God at work through Paul.

Julius allowed Paul to stay with the brethren at Puteoli for seven days. Whenever Paul had a chance, he often exhorted the brethren and sometimes extended his message to midnight or beyond. Paul had a habit of spending time wisely with all the believers he met during the course of his far-flung ministry.

Paul's visit to Rome continued. Under guard from Julius, Paul moved on to Rome as the ambassador in chains of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus had

specifically appeared to Paul and instructed him that he would appear in Rome. The Lord Jesus wanted Caesar and all the Roman officials to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and Paul was His messenger.

Seven Days

1. **There**. What did Paul and his companions find there in Puteoli? They found brethren.
2. **Found**. The brethren made friends with Paul and his companions.
3. **Brethren**. Those brethren showed hospitality to Paul and his companions.
4. **Invited**. They invited Paul and his companions to stay with them.
5. **Stay**. Paul and his companions stayed with them for seven days.
6. **Seven**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and his companions stayed with the brethren at Puteoli for seven days.
7. **Rome**. We rejoice today because Paul and his companions found fellowship and hospitality from the brethren at Puteoli.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the brethren that invite us to stay with them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing with our brethren as we have time together on our journey for Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by showing friendliness and hospitality to travelers passing through on their journey for Christ.**

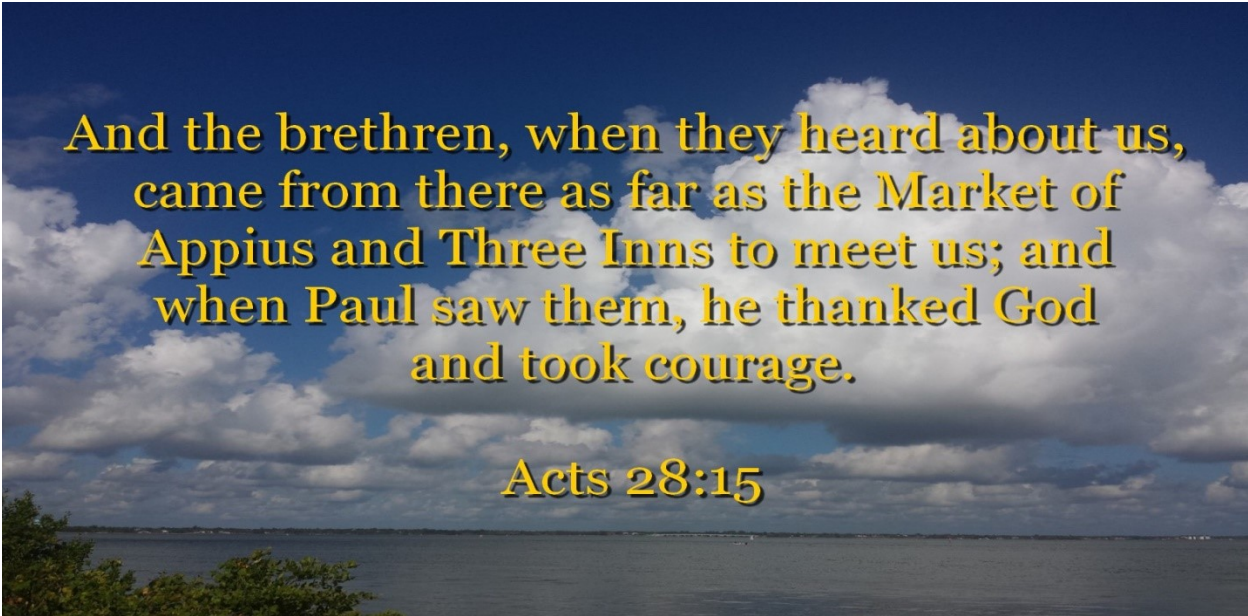
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by the offering fellowship and friendship to travelers journeying forward for Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul and his companions spending seven days with the brethren at Puteoli?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 991

Brethren Today



And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

Acts 28:15

Who met Paul at Rome? Brethren from the Market of Appius and the Three Inns came to meet Paul.

The Alexandrian ship put into the harbor at Puteoli. Paul's sea voyage had finally come to an end. Rome did not have its own harbor, but relied upon nearby harbors. Paul landed at Puteoli and made his way to Rome by land. Paul and his companions had already spent seven days with the brethren at Puteoli before coming to Rome. At long last, Paul entered Rome to meet with Caesar on appeal. The brethren from the Market of Appius and the Three Inns came to meet Paul. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. Although Paul had suffered shipwreck and imprisonments and beatings, Paul still needed his friends to encourage him.

Paul had spent two years in Caesarea waiting for his legal proceedings to conclude there. He had spent considerable time in detention, although he had a measure of freedom to meet people. When the new governor Festus took over, Paul appealed to Caesar and his request was granted. After years

of confinement, Paul had arrived in Rome to put his case on appeal before Caesar.

Courage

1. **Brethren**. What did the brethren do when they heard that Paul was in Rome? They came to see him in Rome.

2. **Heard**. News of Paul's travels to Rome spread quickly and when the Christians heard it, some brethren came to visit.

3. **Came**. They came to Paul from the Market of Appius, about 33 miles south of Rome on the Appian Road.

4. **Three**. They also came from Three Inns, about 37 miles south of Rome on the Appian Road, to meet Paul.

5. **Paul**. Paul had come to Rome, but his testimony there had just begun.

6. **Saw**. Living holy in the family of God means that when Paul saw the brethren coming to him, he was very happy.

7. **Courage**. We rejoice today because Paul took courage from the brethren coming to visit him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to visit brethren in jail or under arrest.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking courage when we see the brethren coming to visit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the need for people to see each other in fellowship with each other, especially during difficult times.**

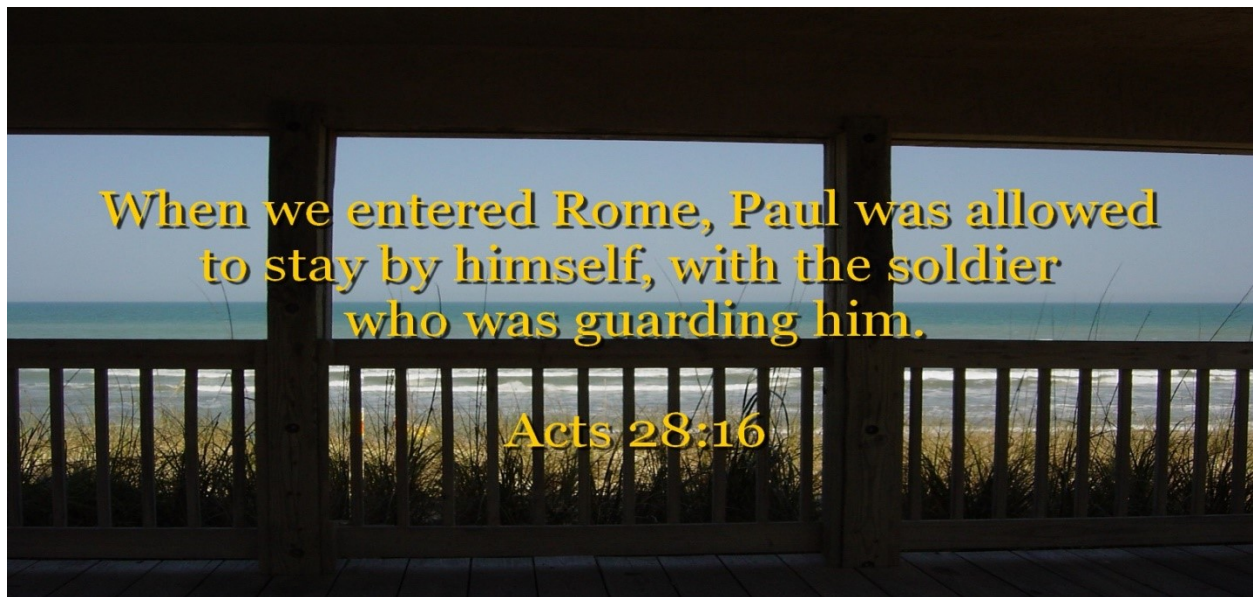
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the brethren coming to see Paul in Rome. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to encourage brethren living under arrest for their faith?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 992

Soldier Today



What happened when Paul entered Rome? He was allowed to stay by himself.

When Paul finally entered Rome, he was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. Paul was used to having a soldier guarding him. Since Caesarea he had lived with a soldier nearby. At least part of the time he was wearing chains. Paul considered himself an ambassador in chains for Christ.

Paul always considered himself a slave of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ had directed him to go to Rome to testify to people in authority about the great salvation in Jesus Christ. Paul did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision or to the later direction of Christ to be His witness.

Paul had spent time in many jails. He knew the jail at Philippi and the jail at Jerusalem. Paul had been arrested and beaten many times. In fact when, when Claudius Lucius first found him, he was about to be torn apart

by the Jews in Jerusalem. Earlier the Jews from Thessalonica trailed Paul across the Mediterranean, seeking an opportunity to kill him.

Guarding

1. **When**. What happened to Paul in Rome? Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with a soldier guarding him.

2. **We**. ‘We’ in this case meant that Luke and Aristarchus may have still been with Paul.

3. **Entered**. They entered Rome after a long voyage.

4. **Rome**. Rome was a place where Caesar ruled and heard cases.

5. **Paul**. Paul had appealed to Caesar.

6. **Himself**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul was allowed to stay by himself waiting for his case to be heard and he had already been waiting years for his case to be resolved.

7. **Soldier**. We rejoice today because Paul had one soldier guarding him and had a measure of freedom.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul held under guard by a soldier in Rome.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He had brought Paul safely to Rome.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the people that He sends to us so that we may take courage in Him together.**

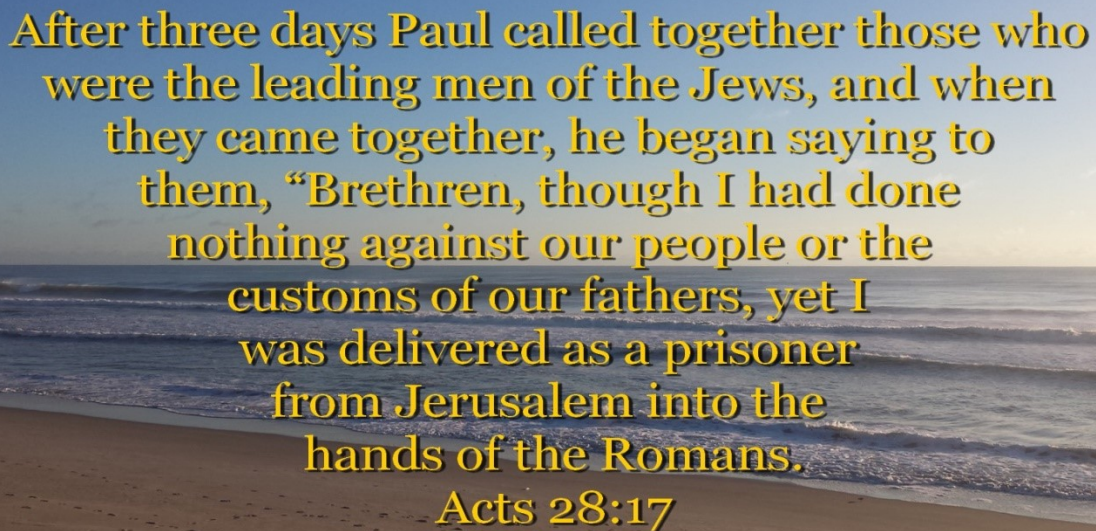
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the measures of freedom we have in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by redeeming the time for the days are evil?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 993

Called Today



After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they came together, he began saying to them, “Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.
Acts 28:17

What did Paul have to say to the leading Jews of Rome? Paul told them that he had done nothing against the people of Israel or the fathers of Israel.

After three days in Rome, Paul followed his usual custom of meeting with the Jews in the new city where he had arrived. Normally, he would go into their synagogue and talk with them. He followed that practice in Judea, Asia and Europe. Very frequently the Jews repudiated the Lord Jesus Christ and attacked Paul. In some cases, the Jews followed him from one city to another seeking to kill him. They almost succeeded in Asia by stoning and leaving him for dead. Yet, God raised Paul up and he continued his ministry.

At Rome, Paul called the leading men of the Jews to him. He was under house arrest and, therefore, he could not see them in the synagogue. When they arrived, Paul addressed them as brethren. Then Paul explained that he had done nothing against the people of Israel or the fathers of Israel.

Paul had presented the same statement many times before. Paul was not seeking to supplant the truth of the Old Testament, but to proclaim the Messiah of the Old Testament to be Jesus of Nazareth.

Together

1. **Three**. What did Paul do after three days in Rome? He called together the leading men of the Jews.

2. **Paul**. Paul normally went and met the Jews in the synagogue when he came into a city.

3. **Called**. Because Paul was under arrest in Rome, he called the Jewish leaders to him.

4. **Leading**. Paul spoke to the leading men and recounted his experience in the Roman court system.

5. **Brethren**. He addressed them as brethren and explained his situation. Paul told the leading men of the Jews that he had done nothing against the people of Israel or the customs of the fathers of Israel.

6. **Nothing**. Living holy in the family of God means that although Paul had done nothing against Israel, he was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem in the hands of the Romans.

7. **Romans**. We rejoice today because Paul had been sent by Jesus to Rome to bear witness for Him there.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul calling the leading Jews to him in Rome.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for fulfilling His promise to Paul that he would be His witness in Rome.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for always keeping His promises, even if they take years to be fulfilled.**

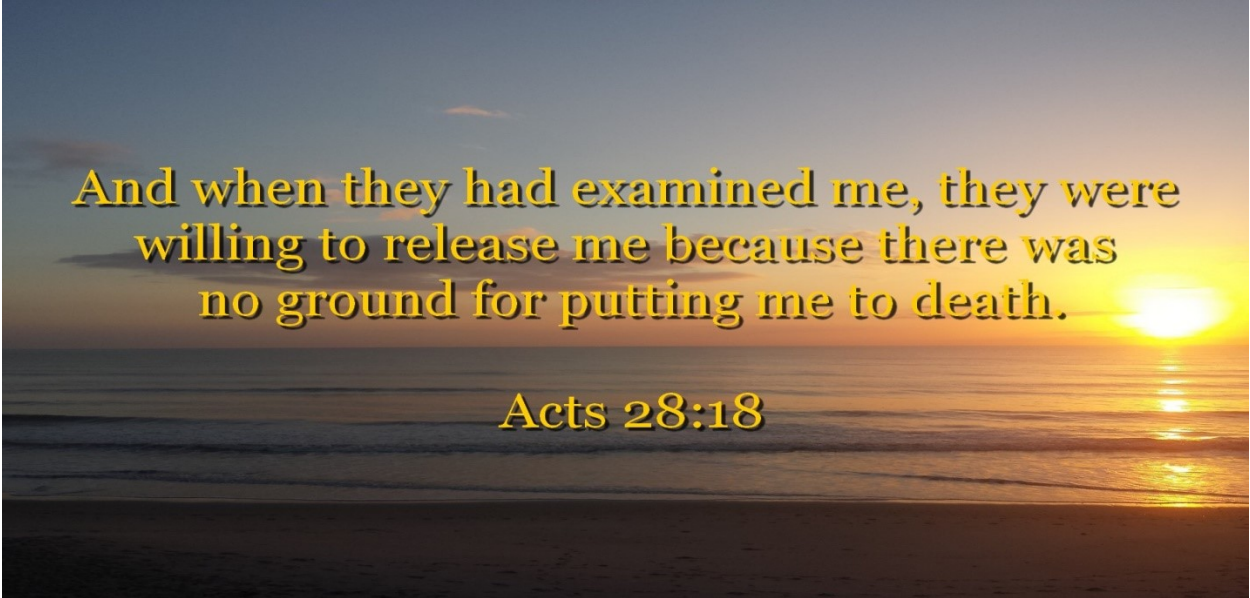
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus that He loves to send messengers who will proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all kinds of people, including those in authority. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering how Paul testified to the Jews at Rome about the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 994

Examined Today



And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death.

Acts 28:18

What did the Romans conclude about Paul? Having examined Paul, they concluded there were no grounds for putting Paul to death.

After three days in Rome, Paul met with some of the leading Jews of the city. Paul recounted to them his experience in the Roman court system. After they examined them, they concluded that he should be released because there was no ground for putting him to death. In fact, King Agrippa, Governor Felix, Governor Festus, and Claudius Lysias all concluded that Paul had done nothing worthy of death. Even so, Paul remained under house arrest at Rome.

The Lord Jesus had chosen Paul to be His messenger to many powerful people in the Roman Empire, including Jews and Greeks. Paul was arrested in Jerusalem more than two years before he appeared in Rome. Paul always wanted to go to Rome and bear fruit there for the Lord Jesus Christ, but his way had been impeded by the Jews in Jerusalem. Before he arrived in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit had spoken through people to him indicating that bonds and afflictions awaited him there. Paul was unmoved because he

intended to lay down his life, as necessary, to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem.

Release

1. **They**. What happened after the Romans examined Paul? They determined that there was no basis for putting him to death.
2. **Examined**. Several different Roman officials had examined Paul.
3. **Willing**. None of them had concluded that Paul had done something worthy of death.
4. **Release**. The Roman officials would have released Paul, except for the Jews.
5. **No**. contrary to the charges of the Jews against Paul, the Romans consistently found that Paul had done nothing worthy of death.
6. **Ground**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Romans could find no grounds for putting Paul to death, yet they were pressured by the Jews to keep him in custody indefinitely.
7. **Death**. We rejoice today because Jesus wanted to use the life of Paul to testify to people all over the world about His great love, but the Jews just wanted Paul to be put to death by the hands of the Romans or their own.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul recounted how the Romans found no grounds for putting him to death.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul showing that no one had found him to have done something worthy of death.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that actual innocence does not always mean that we avoid imprisonment.**

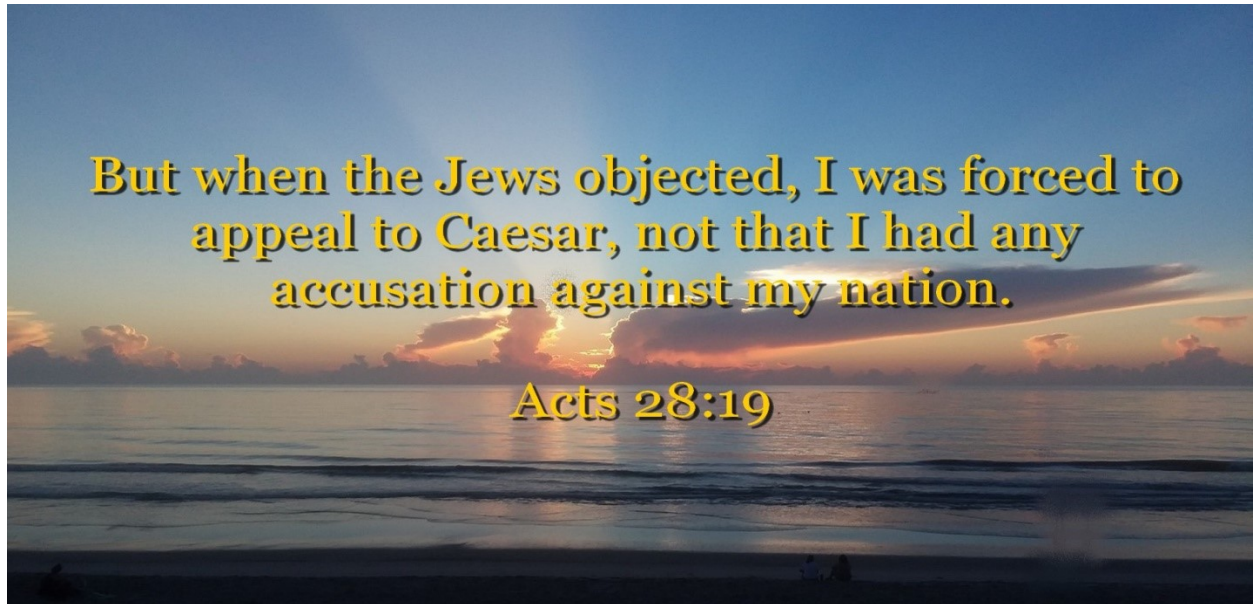
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He preserved the life of Paul and brought him all the way to Rome. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He has brought you this far through life and still has goals for you to achieve in Him?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 995

Jews Today



What happened when the Jews objected to Paul's release? Paul had to appeal to Caesar.

Paul had no accusation against his own nation of Israel. Because the Jews were unable to produce any evidence to support their charges that Paul had violated Jewish Law and done things worthy of death, the Roman judges were willing to release Paul. The Jews, however, objected to Paul's release. Governor Festus wanted to do something for the Jews and so offered to send Paul back to Jerusalem for trial there. That forced Paul to appeal to Caesar to avoid certain death in Jerusalem, if not before, in traveling to Jerusalem.

Is Paul recounted to the Jews in Rome his experience in Judea; the lack of evidence was overwhelming. In fact, Paul did not seek to oppose the Jewish Law nor oppose the patriarchs and their faith. On the contrary, Paul repeatedly testified that the Lord Jesus was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets concerning the Christ. Paul also had a moving testimony of how he had met the Lord Jesus on the Damascus Road. Paul was once a chief

persecutor of the church, but Jesus changed his life forever and commissioned him to be His witness in many places.

Objected

1. **Jews**. Why was Paul forced to appeal to Caesar? The Jews objected to the Romans releasing Paul.

2. **Objected**. When the Jews objected to Paul's release, Governor Festus granted Paul's request to appeal to Caesar.

3. **Forced**. Paul was forced into appealing to Caesar because Festus was inclined to turn Paul over to the Jews for trial in Jerusalem.

4. **Appeal**. Paul made his appeal to Caesar and Festus said to Caesar you shall go.

5. **Caesar**. Roman citizens had a right to appeal to Caesar to have their cases heard.

6. **Accusation**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul did not bring any accusations against his own nation of Israel, although he knew that the Jews had blocked his release from the Romans.

7. **Nation**. We rejoice today because Paul considered himself a Jew of the nation of Israel, although he understood that they, as a group, rejected Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul recounting his saga to the Jews in Rome.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by seeing how God's plans work out in our lives, even when they require us to sacrifice for His work.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning from Paul how to endure one hardship after another for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

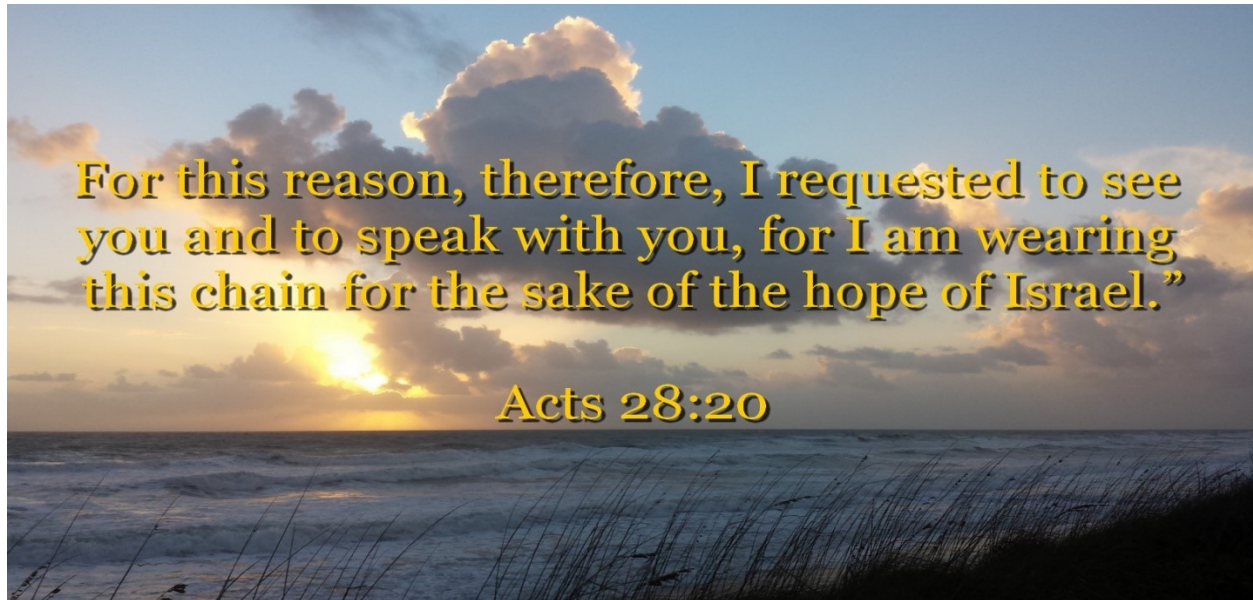
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He always has plans to use our lives for His glory. Will you live holy in the family of God today by learning from Paul about enduring hardship for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 996

Speak Today



Why was Paul wearing the chain? He was wearing it for the sake of the hope of Israel.

Paul called the leading Jews of Rome to him. After a long and difficult journey, Paul had arrived in Rome. He made his defense to the leading men of Rome so that they could understand the reason he was being held in custody. Paul emphasized that the Romans were willing to release him, finding that he had committed no offense worthy of death. The Jews in Jerusalem opposed his release.

Paul told the Roman Jews that he was zealous for the people of Israel and the customs of the fathers of Israel. When Paul said he was in chains for the hope of Israel, he meant that hope was the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul contended that the Lord Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. Paul came to Rome proclaimed to everyone, especially people in authority, that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Christ.

Paul was very persuasive when he talked to people. When they could not cope with his wisdom and insight from the Bible, they often became violent.

Hope

1. **Reason**. Why did Paul want to see the Jews? He wanted to talk to them about the hope of Israel.
2. **Requested**. Paul requested that they come and see him.
3. **See**. He wanted to look them over and see them face-to-face.
4. **Speak**. Paul was granted a measure of freedom so that he could speak with whomever he wished.
5. **Wearing**. Even so, Paul had to wear a chain.
6. **Chain**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul was the ambassador in chains for Christ as he visited Rome and called upon Caesar.
7. **Hope**. We rejoice today because Paul wore the chains of Jesus Christ for the hope of Israel.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul bringing people to himself to proclaim Jesus to them even while wearing the chain.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul considered his chain of mark of glory and suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul continued his ministry at Rome while chained.**

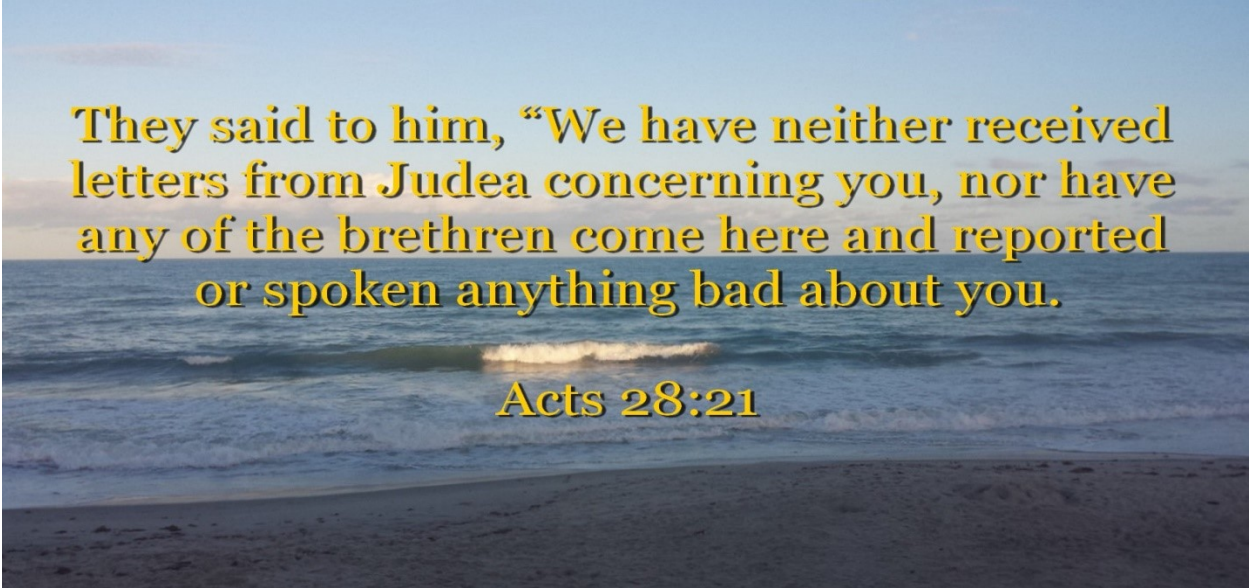
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus and His power to use men chained by Rome for His glory. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that some men in chains proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and so demonstrate their true innocence?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 997

Reported Today



They said to him, “We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you.

Acts 28:21

What did the Jews know about Paul? They knew very little because they had heard nothing from the Jews in Judea.

The Jews Paul called to him at Rome did not know much about him. They had not received letters from Judea concerning Paul. None of the brethren in Rome reported or spoke anything bad about Paul.

When Paul made his defense to the Jews in Rome, they were hearing his side of the story for the first time. Paul came to Rome to talk to everyone about Jesus. Jesus had sent him to Rome for the express purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially to the Roman authorities.

Paul customarily went into the Jewish synagogue in the new cities he visited. He proclaimed Jesus as Messiah to them first. If the Jews did not receive him, then he proceeded to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles in town. More often than not the Jews rejected Paul and often used violence against him. The Gentiles often welcomed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus had kept Paul alive on the very dangerous journey from Judea to Rome. In fact, he had suffered shipwreck, but God had brought all the souls on board through the storm and to the beach safely.

Spoken

1. **They**. How did the Jews respond to Paul? They reported that they knew virtually nothing about Paul.

2. **Letters**. They had not received letters from anyone in Judea concerning Paul.

3. **Judea**. The Jews of Judea wanted to try Paul and kill Paul, but they had not furnished letters to the Jews in Rome about Paul.

4. **Brethren**. The Jewish brethren also had nothing bad to report about Paul.

5. **Reported**. None of the brethren from other places had come to Rome and reported bad things about Paul.

6. **Anything**. Living holy in the family of God means that as God opened doors for the Jews to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, they had not heard anything bad about Paul, so that he could proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to them without undue prejudice.

7. **Bad**. We rejoice today because the Jews had heard nothing bad about Paul from people coming to Rome.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that the Jews from Thessalonica and elsewhere had not yet corrupted the Jews at Rome against Paul and Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He often controls the flow of information to provide His witnesses better opportunities to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering how important it is that we are unified in God so that the world may know about Jesus and the love of His Father and the power the Holy Spirit.**

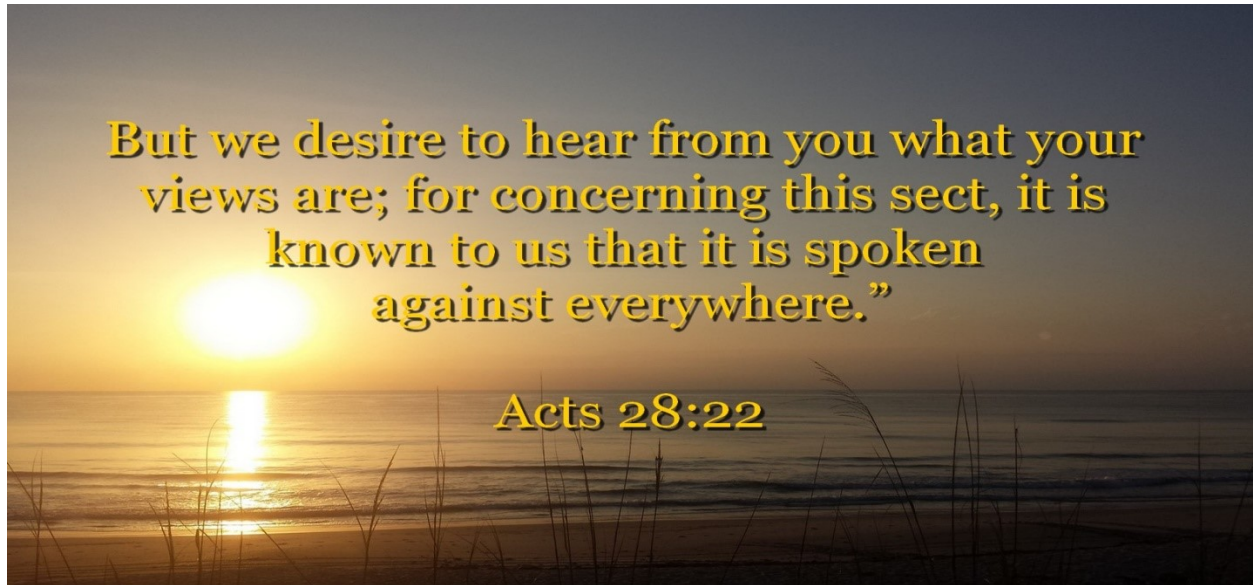
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by bearing testimony to God based upon the Scriptures in our conversation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by encouraging the people in chains for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ to keep speaking and never fall silent?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 998

Desire Today



What did the Jews know about the sect of the Nazarenes? The Jews in Rome only knew that the sect of the Nazarenes was spoken against everywhere.

The Jews kept an open mind towards Paul. They told him that they wanted to hear directly from him about his views. At least at the outset, the Jews were willing to give Paul a hearing.

Typically, Jewish groups were composed of both Pharisees and Sadducees. Paul came from the roots of Pharisees. Therefore, when he proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Pharisees believed in resurrection and an afterlife, the Sadducees denied both. Paul often divided the Jews before him by proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Sadducees immediately would spurn him, while the Pharisees would not dismiss the claim of resurrection out of hand.

Paul said he was willing to die in Jerusalem for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Instead, Jesus explained to him that he would be the witness for Jesus before many people in authority. Paul had already been

incarcerated in Caesarea for two years before leaving for Rome. After a very dangerous sea voyage and the shipwreck, Paul made it to Rome.

Hear

1. **We**. What impression did the Jews have about the sect of the Nazarenes? They knew it was spoken against everywhere.

2. **Desire**. Because they had heard about the sect, they had a desire to hear from Paul directly.

3. **Hear**. They wanted to hear Paul talk about his views.

4. **Views**. Paul presented his views from the Scriptures.

5. **Sect**. The Jews had heard that the sect of the Nazarenes was spreading.

6. **Spoken**. Living holy in the family of God means that when people tell you that the sect of the Nazarenes is spoken against everywhere, then we know that Christians have been setting the world upside down by proclaiming Christ to them.

7. **Everywhere**. We rejoice today because when people speak everywhere against the sect of the Nazarenes, God opens doors for the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ to be spread everywhere.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that key people can speak against Jesus everywhere.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to open opportunities to tell the truth about Jesus and His great love for people everywhere.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that when people speak against Jesus everywhere, some people somewhere will be turning to Christ for salvation because someone shared the Gospel with them.**

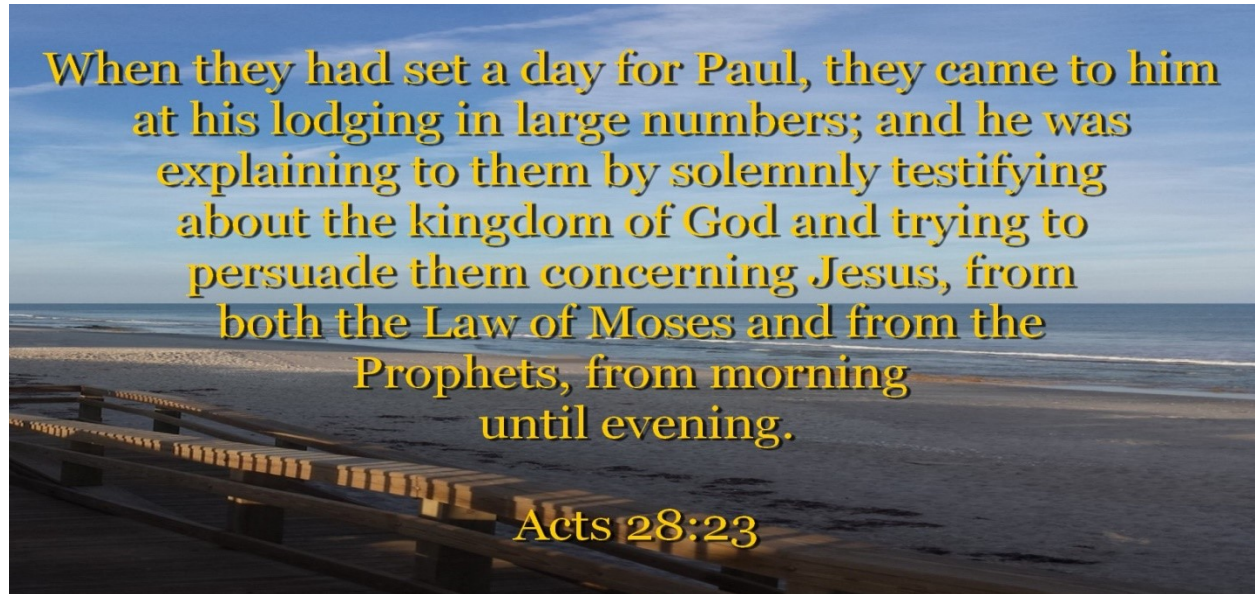
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never giving up just because Jesus is spoken against everywhere. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Jesus said He would build His church everywhere?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 999

Explaining Today



What happened when the Jews came to hear Paul present his views? Paul took all day explaining his views from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets about Jesus.

Jesus had provided Paul with an extraordinary opportunity to evangelize the city of Rome. In fact, the Jews invited him to present his faith to them. When the appointed day arrived, Paul was ready to present a detailed account from the Scriptures of his hope in Jesus Christ.

Beginning in the morning, the Jews came to him at his lodging in Rome in large numbers. He began by explaining to them and solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God. As Paul stood in the seat of the Roman Empire, he explained the spiritual world of the kingdom of God. The contrast between a human empire and God's kingdom could not be brighter than when Paul stood in Rome.

Paul made no pretense. He tried to persuade them about Jesus being the Messiah of Israel. He used both the Law of Moses and the Prophets of the Old Testament to show how Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the Old Testament

promises concerning Messiah. In short, Paul proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the large number of Jews, using the Scriptures.

Testifying

1. **Set**. What happened when the set they arrived? The Jews came to see Paul.

2. **Day**. On the set day they came to the lodging of Paul.

3. **Came**. They came to Paul because they wanted to hear from him personally.

4. **Large**. A large number of Jews showed up at Paul's lodging on the appointed day.

5. **Kingdom**. Paul solemnly testified to the Jews about the kingdom of God.

6. **Law**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul trying to persuade the Jews about Jesus.

7. **Prophets**. We rejoice today because from morning till evening Paul testified from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets that Jesus was the Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul talking about Jesus with the Jews from morning until evening.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for opportunities to speak to large numbers of people about Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Moses and the prophets both proclaimed the day of Jesus Christ coming to earth and His ministry in the flesh.**

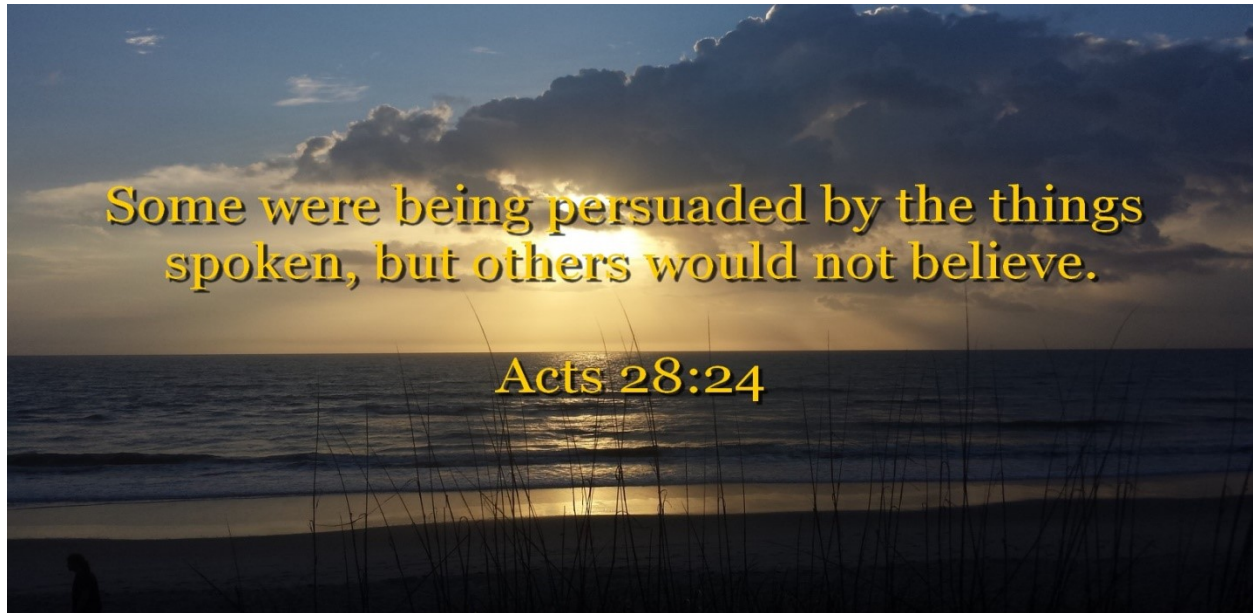
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for Paul's faithfulness and speaking to large numbers of Jews in Italy, Asia, Europe and Judea. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking the Lord Jesus for opportunities to share our faith from the Scriptures which speak about Jesus as Savior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 1000

Persuaded Today



What effect did Paul have upon the Jews? Some were persuaded about Jesus, but others were not.

When Paul presented the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people, he testified as a witness that Jesus was resurrected and alive. God had raised Him from the dead and He had appeared to Paul in person on more than one occasion. Paul not only used the Scriptures to prove that Jesus was the resurrected Christ, the Messiah of Israel, and the Savior of the world, but Paul also presented his eyewitness testimony of his encounter on the Damascus Road with Jesus of Nazareth, the Risen Savior.

Paul did not talk in academic jargon. He spoke with clear words precisely aimed to the hearts of the Jews before him. He proclaimed Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. He urged them to believe in the Scriptures. Both the Law of Moses and the Prophets proclaimed faith in Jesus Christ as the only hope of salvation. God took flesh and Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, both God and man simultaneously. Jesus was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They rejoiced in that they knew Jesus and looked forward

to the day He would take flesh and dwell among men. They understood the concept of resurrection.

Others

1. **Some**. What effect did Paul's persuasive speaking have upon the Jews who came in large numbers to his lodging in Rome? Some were persuaded by Paul and others were not.

2. **Persuaded**. Paul persuaded some of the Jews to receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

3. **Things**. By the things Paul said, some of the Jews were persuaded that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ.

4. **Spoken**. The things spoken by Paul as he sought to persuade the Jews touched some of the hearts of the Jews.

5. **Others**. While the words of Paul touched some of the hearts of the Jews, others were not convinced.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that we rejoice that Jews received eternal life that day because God had opened their hearts to hear the things proclaimed by Paul and believe in Jesus for salvation.

7. **Believe**. We rejoice today because Paul stressed the importance of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the only hope and means of salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that neither Paul nor Jesus persuaded all the Jews about the kingdom of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some people will hear the Gospel and believe while others will reject it.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus and persuading people to receive Him by faith as Savior.**

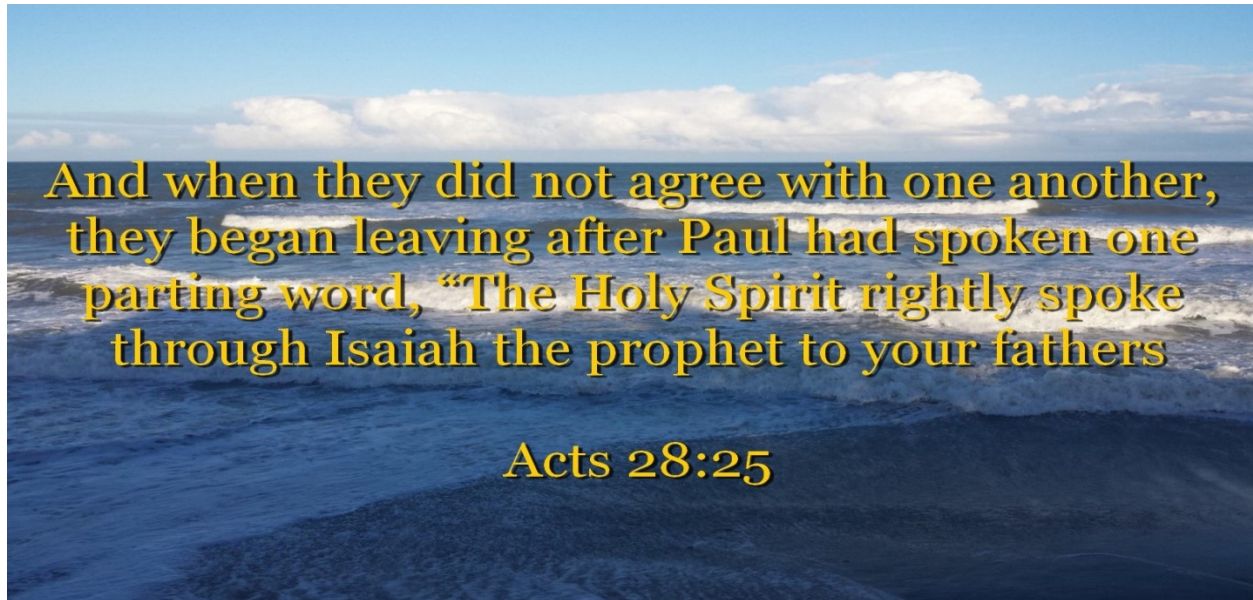
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for people like Paul who solemnly testified for Jesus, trying to persuade men to receive the free gift of salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing over every soul that trusts the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 1001

Spoke Today



How did the Jews receive Paul's message? They could not agree with one another about Paul's message.

On the third day Paul was in Rome, he called the leading Jews to himself. He had some freedom as a prisoner under arrest. He was allowed to meet with visitors. Following his custom, Paul invited the Jews to come to him because he could not go to them first. Paul had followed that practice of going to the synagogues first whenever he went to a new place.

Paul had already expressed to the Jews that he had done nothing wrong, and yet was prosecuted. Paul explained that he was faithful to the Law and the Prophets and held to the hope of Israel. He said he was on trial for the hope of the resurrection too.

Some of the Jews were Pharisees who believed in the resurrection and afterlife. Others of the Jews were from the Sadducees and they did not believe in resurrection or afterlife. Paul split groups of Jews down the middle by declaring that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, raised from the dead on the third day after His death. The Pharisees did not rule out resurrection, but

the Sadducees vigorously opposed any such claim. Paul ended by telling them that the Holy Spirit spoke correctly through Isaiah the prophet to their fathers.

Isaiah

1. **Agree**. What parting word did Paul give to the Jews who did not agree with one another? He told them about Isaiah the prophet.

2. **Leaving**. The Jews did not agree with one another because of the message Paul had preached to them and now they were leaving.

3. **Parting**. Paul gave them a parting word from an Old Testament prophet.

4. **Spirit**. Paul said the Holy Spirit was speaking through Isaiah the prophet.

5. **Isaiah**. Isaiah was speaking about the forefathers of the people of Israel.

6. **Prophet**. Living holy in the family of God means that Isaiah the prophet spoke correctly about the fathers of Israel and how they had rejected God and His ways.

7. **Fathers**. We rejoice today because Paul proclaimed the words of Isaiah the prophet to the Jews standing before him in Rome.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the words of Isaiah the prophet.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by speaking the right words as people leave divided among themselves.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that the Lord Jesus Christ abides many people.**

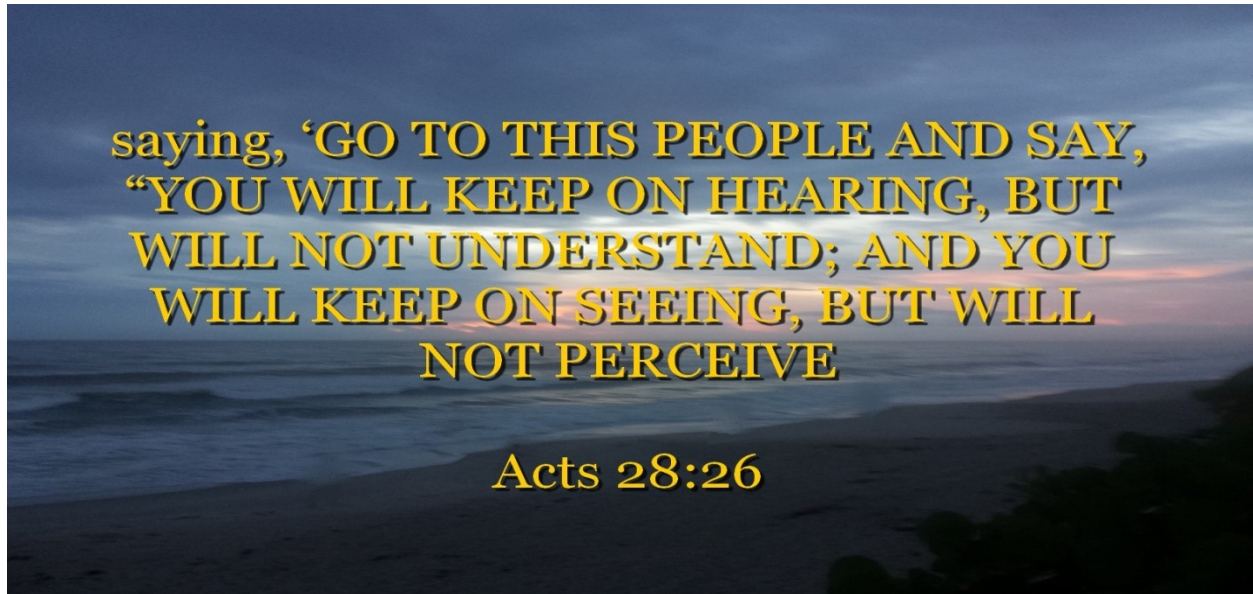
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the words of Isaiah the prophet warning people about unbelief. Will you live holy in the family of God today by quoting Scripture to people who are divided among themselves over the message of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 1002

Hearing Today



What did Isaiah the prophet say about the fathers? Isaiah said that the people of Israel will keep on hearing but not understanding.

Paul knew the Old Testament very well. He quoted Isaiah as his final remarks as the crowd was breaking up and leaving. They were divided over Paul and his message about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel.

Paul quoted Isaiah saying that the prophet should go to this people and tell them that they would keep on hearing but not understand, and they would keep on seeing, but they would not perceive. Paul meant that they had heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and they have seen with their eyes Paul talking to them, but they would not believe the word of God. They were truly the blind leading the blind. Both of them would fall into a pit.

People are charged by Paul with not following the Scriptures. In fact, Paul was following the Scriptures and the Jews as a group were denying God and not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God. They had heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but repudiated Jesus as Messiah because

they never knew the God of the Old Testament. They were strangers to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Seeing

1. **Saying**. What was Isaiah saying? Isaiah was saying that the people of Israel were rejecting God after hearing His message of love.
2. **Go**. God told Isaiah to go to the people of Israel with His words.
3. **People**. Isaiah had a warning from God for the people of Israel.
4. **Hearing**. God told them that they were hearing, but they did not understand.
5. **Understand**. Specifically, the people of Israel did not understand God or His message of love.
6. **Seeing**. Living holy in the family of God means that Isaiah warned the people of Israel that they were seeing the power and love of God before them, but they did not perceive what God was doing.
7. **Perceive**. We rejoice today because the people of Israel did not perceive the love of God nor heed the warning of Isaiah, but we who have believed in Jesus Christ do understand and perceive.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews were seeing and hearing.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that seeing and hearing do not mean the same as understanding and perceiving.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reminding people of Isaiah the prophet's words to the forefathers of Israel about their persistent unbelief.**

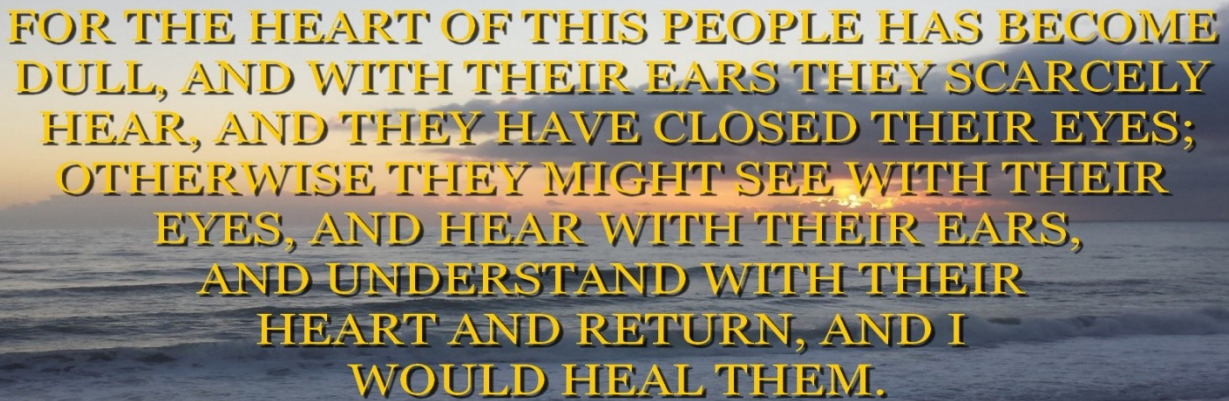
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by quoting the prophet Isaiah to people who willfully reject God while claiming to be very religious. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His unfailing love which opens the eyes and hearts of some people to respond to His love?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 1003

Hearts Today



FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.

Acts 28:27

What did Isaiah say about the heart of the people of Israel? Isaiah said that the heart of the people of Israel had become dull.

Paul continued to quote Isaiah. Isaiah said that with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes. Those intentional acts mean they have shut their heart.

Isaiah continued his indictment of the people. God said if they would have opened their eyes and ears, then they might see and hear and understand with their heart and return and God would heal them. God said that the people of Israel were willfully obstinate in refusing His loving kindness.

Paul quoted Isaiah for the purpose of showing the Jews who refused to believe in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ their errors. Isaiah had prophesied many centuries before about the people of Israel in his day. They closed their eyes and ears and they refused to turn to God so that He would heal them. The word of God remains powerful at all times. Perhaps some in

the crowd gave careful thought to the words of Isaiah and repented of their evil and turned to the Lord Jesus Christ the Savior.

Dull

1. **Heart**. What happened to the hearts of the fathers of Israel? Their hearts had become dull.

2. **Dull**. Isaiah said the people of Israel had become spiritually dull in their hearts.

3. **Ears**. Likewise, they scarcely heard with their ears.

4. **Eyes**. They closed their eyes.

5. **See**. God reproved them because He wanted them to see and hear and understand.

6. **Hear**. Living holy in the family of God means that only some people will understand with their heart and return.

7. **Return**. We rejoice today because all the people returning to God He would heal.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by hearing, seeing, and understanding the message of Isaiah given through the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by opening our eyes, perceiving with our hearts, and returning to the Lord so that He will heal us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering God reaching out to the people of Israel through Isaiah the prophet and warning them about the consequences of unbelief.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by returning to the Lord for His healing. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reaching out to people who do not hear and do not see and do not understand so that they might return to the Lord and He would heal them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 1004

Salvation Today



What did Paul want the Jews to know before they left? He wanted them to know that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles.

Just as the Jews had rejected Jesus and clamored for His crucifixion, so also the Jews in Rome rejected the preaching of Paul about the Lord Jesus. Paul had faced the same response from the Jews before. They heard the offer of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ, but repudiated the Lord Jesus and His free gift of salvation.

Just as Jesus had trained His disciples to shake the dust off their feet as they left town when people rejected the Gospel of the kingdom, so also Paul was telling the Jews in Rome that he was now going to the Gentiles with the message of the Lord Jesus Christ. He also let the Jews know that the Gentiles would listen. While the Jews persisted in their unbelief towards the Lord Jesus Christ, the Gentiles would eagerly embrace Him. The Lord Jesus had promised to build His church and He would do so without regard to Jew or Gentile, male or female, slave or free. Jesus made His offer of salvation to all people, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

Paul had made the offer of salvation through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews in Rome. As they left, Paul was going to the Gentiles and they would listen.

Gentiles

1. **Known**. What did Paul want the Jews to know about the Gentiles? Paul said let it be known that the Gentiles would listen to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **You**. Paul said he wanted you to know, referring to the unbelieving people of Israel.

3. **Salvation**. Paul proclaimed the salvation of God to the people of Israel.

4. **God**. God sent His Son, Jesus, to His own people, but they rejected Jesus and the salvation of God.

5. **Sent**. Paul declared that the salvation of God had been sent to the Gentiles.

6. **Gentiles**. Living holy in the family of God means that when the Jews rejected the salvation of God, then God sent the salvation of God to the Gentiles.

7. **Listen**. We rejoice today because God sent the salvation of God to the Gentiles and they would listen.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God sent the salvation of God first to the Jews.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of God to the Gentiles because they will listen.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul explaining to the Jews why God was now sending salvation to the Gentiles.**

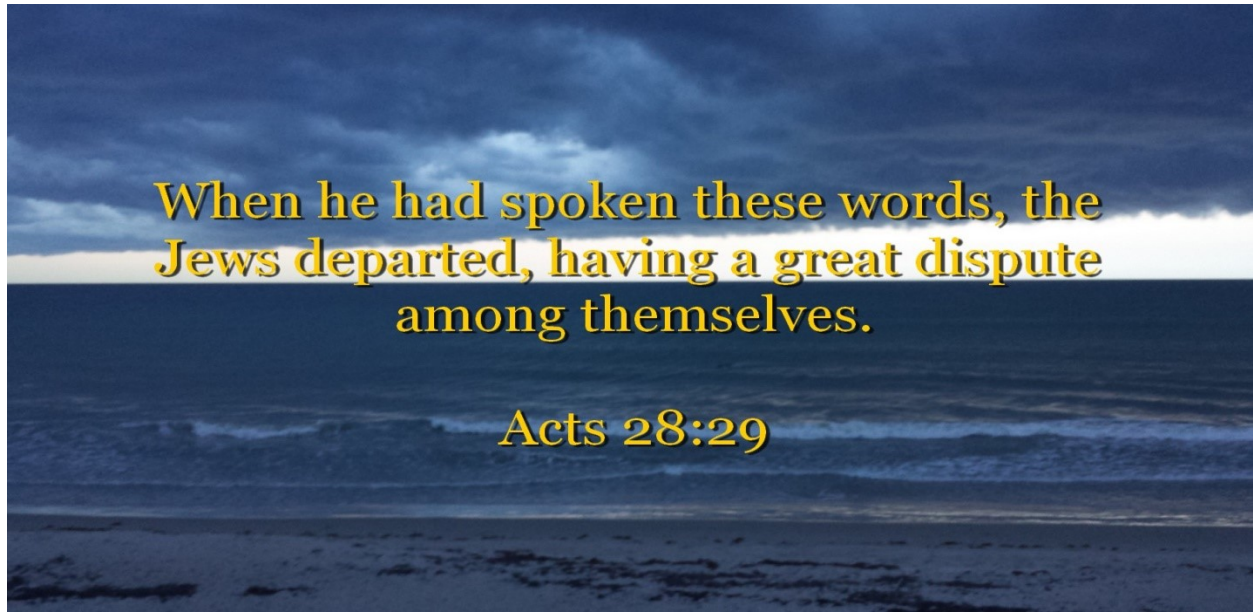
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul turning to the Gentiles after the Jews rejected the salvation of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for sending the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles who would listen?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 1005

Departed Today



As the Jews departed, how were they getting along? They were having a great dispute among themselves.

Paul had proclaimed Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah and Son of God. Because some of the Jews in the audience refused to believe in Jesus and His resurrection, they had effectively closed their eyes and shut their ears to God and His message of salvation through the Son of God.

Paul reminded the Jews as they left of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah had warned the Jews that they had closed their eyes, scarcely listened with their ears, and turned their hearts away from God Who loved them. While Paul lamented the unbelief of his brethren, he did not stop proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul told the Jews as they departed that he would proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. While the Jews repudiated the Lord Jesus Christ, the Gentiles would eagerly embrace Him for salvation. Paul had followed the same pattern before of going to the Jews first and then the Gentiles. In Rome Paul's message resonated with some of the Jews, but others of them refused to

consider Paul's teaching and disregarded the prophecy of Isaiah to their own destruction.

Dispute

1. **When**. Why were the Jews disputing among themselves? Some Jews listened to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ when presented by Paul, but others rejected it out of hand.

2. **Spoken**. After Paul had spoken the words of salvation to the Jews, a great dispute erupted among them.

3. **Words**. The words from Isaiah the prophet struck home in the hearts of some of the Jews.

4. **Jews**. The Jews did not believe Paul, because they never knew God.

5. **Departed**. As they departed, the word of Isaiah rang in the ears of some of the Jews.

6. **Dispute**. Living holy in the family of God means that some of the Jews received the word of the Lord Jesus and so a dispute arose among the Jews.

7. **Themselves**. We rejoice today because the Jews not only contended with Paul, but they also had a great dispute among themselves about the things Paul said from the Scriptures about Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah and Savior of the world.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul speaking to the Jews about the salvation of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Jews departed with a great dispute among themselves.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving Jesus because He loved Jews and Gentiles first.**

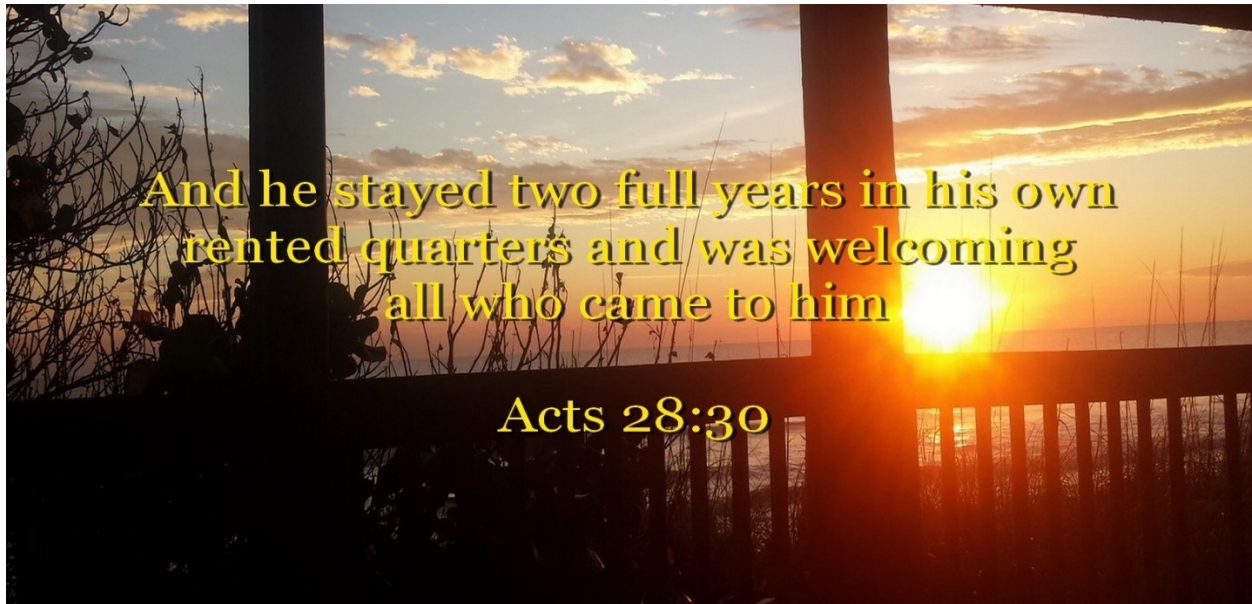
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding the prophets of God created disputes among people who reject the salvation of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the power of God for salvation resides in Jesus Christ our Lord?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 1006

Quarters Today



How long did Paul stay in Rome? Paul stayed in Rome for two full years.

After three days, Paul invited the leading Jews of Rome in that area to visit him. He could not go to them because he was under arrest. He had become an ambassador in chains for the Lord Jesus Christ. He talked to the Jews and they left bitterly divided among themselves. Some Jews believed what Paul was saying about Jesus and His resurrection as Savior, but others did not.

As the Jews left Paul's quarters, he quoted to them Isaiah the prophet warning the people of Israel that they rejected God and His love at their own peril. Paul was urging them to turn back to God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and He would heal them.

Paul stayed in his own rented quarters for two years in Rome. Paul welcomed all the people who came to him. He had a measure of freedom that allowed him to receive guests. He had enjoyed the same kind of relationship at Caesarea where he was under house arrest there for two years. He was

finally sent on appeal to Rome and had a terrible voyage getting there. During that time in Rome, Paul wrote letters to several churches.

Welcoming

1. **Stayed**. Where did Paul stay in Rome? He rented the quarters he stayed in.
2. **Two**. For two years Paul stayed in Rome.
3. **Rented**. He rented his own space so that he could continue his ministry in Rome, while still under arrest and guarded.
4. **Quarters**. By renting his own quarters, Paul was able to receive visitors.
5. **Welcoming**. He was welcoming everyone who came to him.
6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul became an ambassador in chains for Jesus Christ and welcomed Jews and Gentiles who came to him.
7. **Came**. We rejoice today because God sent people to Paul so that he could meet them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul ministering from his own quarters in Rome.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by continuing to minister for the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter our circumstances.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by welcoming all the people that God sends to you for ministry.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by ministering to all the people God sends to us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming the people that God sends to you for ministry?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 1007

Preaching Today



What did Paul do with his visitors? He was preaching the kingdom of God.

Paul lived in his own rented quarters at Rome, but remained under arrest with the soldiers guarding him. Paul was preaching the kingdom of God. Wherever Paul went, he was always proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He declared that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah and God raised Him from the dead on the third day after His crucifixion.

Paul customarily proclaimed salvation first to the Jews. Very frequently they rejected the message of Paul. Then he turned to the Gentiles and they gladly received the free gift of eternal life from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul was teaching from his own rented quarters in Rome. No one hindered him from teaching. He taught openly and without trouble from anyone. Paul never gave up. No matter what circumstances he found himself in, by the power of the Holy Spirit working within him, he found great boldness to proclaim the kingdom of God and to teach all the people who would come to him to hear about Jesus.

Unhindered

1. **Preaching**. What was Paul doing in Rome? Paul was preaching the kingdom of God.

2. **Kingdom**. As Paul proclaimed the kingdom of God, he fulfilled the command of Jesus to take the Gospel to kings and others in authority, as well as everyone else.

3. **Teaching**. Paul was also teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Lord**. Paul recognized Jesus as His Lord and Paul served Him as a faithful servant.

5. **All**. Paul made no secret of his ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ in Rome and enjoyed all openness in doing so.

6. **Openness**. Living holy in the family of God means that with all openness Paul proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught people about the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Unhindered**. We rejoice today because Paul's ministry was unhindered for two years in Rome, serving the Lord Jesus Christ as an ambassador in chains.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God that we can proclaim the kingdom of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing that with all openness Paul taught people about the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul spoke about Jesus unhindered.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching people about the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by fulfilling your ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ every day?

HALLELUJAH!

Conclusion

The Book of Acts provides a spiritual history of the expansion of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The ministry in Jerusalem flourished after Pentecost when the Holy Spirit rushed like a violent wind upon the apostles. As Jesus baptized them with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in known tongues to the people gathered there in Jerusalem. From those early beginnings, the church grew rapidly as people were saved. Persecution arose and people spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ across the world as they fled from enemies of God. The Book of Acts concluded with Paul, having been converted on the Damascus Road, proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ in Rome as he waited under house arrest for Caesar to hear his appeal. Paul had largely fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus that he would proclaim the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ before governors and others in authority, including an appeal to Caesar in Rome. Paul had suffered much for the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ as he proved faithful to the heavenly vision from Jesus on the Damascus Road, establishing new churches in Asia and Europe.

HALLELUJAH !