

The Center of His Will

Acts 27

Paul, the prisoner shipped to Rome: Acts 27:1-8

Paul is finally headed to the place where he _____ go – Rome! (Acts 23:11)

But just because he is following God's will does not mean the journey will be _____ or without _____.

What began so positively is about to take a very negative turn ...

The storm rolls in: Acts 27:9-20

Winter is approaching and Paul (a seasoned traveler) knows the _____ of continuing the journey.

He _____ (not *prophesies*) what is *likely* to happen if they continue (27:10), but his words are dismissed.

Faith is not _____.

Faith does not preclude _____.

The storm is so intense that the men aboard lost all _____ of surviving it.

But Paul had the hope that only God's _____ can give. (Acts 23:11)

God's promise and Paul's prophetic encouragement: Acts 27:21-26

You all should have _____ to me, and this situation could have been avoided.

We should be people of _____ and _____.

_____ God and don't do _____.

But "_____". Why?

God's will is _____ and more _____ than ours.

I _____ appear before the emperor.

God will save us _____.

Only the _____ will be lost.

Means and Ends – The Providence of God: Acts 27:27-32

God is interested (and involved in) both the _____ (in this case, getting Paul to Rome) and the _____ (How Paul will get there and what lessons will be learned along the way).

The same is true for us. God is _____ to our sanctification.

God has promised the safe passage of _____ on board. But _____ will that be accomplished?

The answer? _____ and _____.

Some salvation parallels:

Paul's second message of encouragement: Acts 27:33-38

Take food; regain strength; choose _____.

You can _____ in the _____ even before you see your _____.

Faith operates in the _____, but _____.

Faith thanks God _____.

Shipwreck and the mystery of providence: Acts 27:39-44a

God's sovereignty and providence surely _____ mean that all happens _____ and without _____ participation.

"... the answer to the puzzle of divine sovereignty and human responsibility is not to be found in a formula, but in flesh and blood ..."

So close to the fulfillment of the promise and almost all is nearly _____! (27:42)

But _____ man made a _____ that resulted in the deliverance of _____. (27:43)

- God usually works through _____.
- God works through the '_____' _____ that we make.
- God's _____ of working are beyond our _____.
- God never _____.

Conclusion – God saw to it: Acts 27:44b

Guaranteeing the _____, God is at work in the _____ (promising, warning, encouraging, changing) so that what He _____ is _____ what _____.

Several final encouragements to us all:

God is in the _____.

We steer our '_____', but God controls the _____.

If you are doing what you know/believe God wants you to do (and particularly if it's _____), stick with it. (Don't _____ ship!)

You probably aren't the _____ person on the ship! God is working in the lives of _____, too! It's hardly _____ just about _____.