



*Paul had more than his share of troubled times...*

- ✦ While on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey, Paul outlined what he had already encountered as a Christian: 2 Corinthians 1:8-10; 4:7-8; 11:23-28
- ✦ **"Fiery ordeals"** for being a Christian. 1 Peter 4:12-16
- ✦ What about us? Can we understand the troubled times Paul experienced? Have we had our own?

- ✦ Yet as we read in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians of what he had experienced to that point in his life, more yet awaited him.
- ✦ As Paul concluded his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey, Agabus prophesied of more to come: Acts 21:10-14. Paul's attitude?
- ✦ The prophecy came true: Acts 21:27ff.
- ✦ This begins a period of over two years in bondage in Jerusalem and Caesarea.
- ✦ Paul then begins his journey to Rome in Acts 27.

What was Paul's attitude, not only on this journey to Rome, but during his entire imprisonment – even his entire life?

**"...for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told."** – Acts 27:25

The Lord made a promise to Paul. Acts 23:11 (cf. Psalms 33:11, "... **the counsel of the Lord stands forever ...**")

- ✦ Paul:
  - **Sure of**
    - the outcome,
    - the destiny
    - the results.
  - **Unsure of**
    - the journey,
    - the process,
    - the challenges.

*Abandoned Hope*

- ✦ Acts 27:20, *"And 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.**"*

***What do you do when circumstances appear to offer you **no hope**?***

✳️ **What do you do when you are at “wits end” (Psalms 107:27; read verses 23-28).**

- “Abandoned” – to take away entirely and altogether that which surrounds or envelops a thing; to cast off (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
- “Despair was beginning to settle like a fog on all their hopes.” (Robertson's Word Pictures in the New Testament)

✳️ **What would God have for you to do? Will we rely on our wisdom or God's?**

*Steps To Take In Troubled Times*

**1. Seek wise counsel & accept exhortation**

– verses 21-22

- **Example of Rehoboam. 1 Kings 12; Proverbs 1:5; 12:15;**
- **Must begin with God's word. Psalms 33:11; 73:24; 19:20-21**
- **Whose advice do we seek? Or do we lean on our own understanding? Proverbs 3:5**
- **Will we listen?**

*Steps To Take In Troubled Times*

**2. Cheer up - keep your chin up** – verse 22

- Word for “courage” (NASB) means to be in good spirits, of good cheer.
- We are to be those who “rejoice always” – Philippians 4:4
- Blessed vs. Happy. “Happy” is based on favorable circumstances. “Blessed” transcends circumstances. 1 Peter 3:14; James 1:12.
- Count your blessings!

*Steps To Take In Troubled Times*

**3. Trust & Have Faith** verses 23-25

- God said he would make it. (verse 24)
- Do we believe that “it will turn out exactly as I have been told”? (verse 25)
- Do we believe that God will never forsake us? (Hebrews 13:5-6) Do we believe we can “overwhelmingly conquer”? (Romans 8:37-39)
- Do we believe we can do “all things”? Philippians 4:13

*Steps To Take In Troubled Times*

**4. Be Courageous** – verse 24

- “Courage is not the absence of fear but the judgment that something else is more important than fear.”
- Joshua 1:5-9
- “Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, ‘I will try again tomorrow.’”
- Psalms 31:24

*Steps To Take In Troubled Times*

**5. Be realistic and be ready to take action** – verses 26-29

- We need to see situations of danger and respond accordingly.
- Flee when we need to flee. 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.
- Spiritually, if we've dug a hole, recognize that, repent, and stop digging!
- Need to be “doers” – James 1:22; Matthew 7:24

*Steps To Take In Troubled Times*

- 6. Don't think only about self** – verses 30-31
- Need for humility. Philippians 2:1-7
  - Think about our brethren. Nehemiah 4:14
  - Think about the lost. John 4:35
  - Look outside yourself to “admonish ... encourage ... and help.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:14

*Steps To Take In Troubled Times*

- 7. Get some nourishment** – verse 33
- We've got to ensure that we are being properly fed.
  - In desperate times, certainly we need to address our physical needs.
  - Above all else, that requires proper spiritual nourishment. 1 Timothy 4:6; 1 Peter 2:2; Acts 20:32; Colossians 2:7

*Steps To Take In Troubled Times*

- 8. Give thanks** – verse 35
- There is no more important time to give thanks than in troubled times when we don't see the way out.
  - “In everything give thanks” –  
1 Thessalonians 5:18
  - “Always giving thanks” – Ephesians 5:20
  - Why now?

*Save Yourselfs ...*

Though Paul had been told that no life would be lost (verses 22-23), he led the effort to **do what they could to save themselves** (cf. Acts 2:40) ...

- ✘ Secured the boat – got it under control
- ✘ Hoisted it up – raised up a boat into ship (verse 30)
- ✘ Supporting cables undergirding the ship
- ✘ Let down the sea anchor
- ✘ Jettison the cargo
- ✘ Throw the tackle overboard
- ✘ Will we? Acts 2:40; Philippians 2:12

*Our Salvation depends on ...*

- ✘ Seeking wise counsel
- ✘ Rejoicing always
- ✘ Having faith and trusting God
- ✘ Being courageous
- ✘ Being a doer
- ✘ Thinking of others
- ✘ Getting nourishment
- ✘ Being thankful