

INTRODUCTION

- * Over the past couple of weeks, we have been considering the transition of Paul's ministry from proclaiming the gospel in a traveling ministry to the ultimate fulfillment of God's prophetic proclamation to him that Paul would bear His name before kings (cf. Acts 9:15-16). We have seen how God used Paul's wrongful imprisonment to begin the process of moving him along to Rome, just as Jesus had promised him (cf. Acts 23:11).
- * In the spring of 2020, we studied Paul's second letter to the church of Corinth. The title of the series was "Embracing Affliction" because that is the theme of Paul's letter. In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul provides a list of the afflictions and trials which he had endured up to the point of writing that letter. In the list, he states that he had been shipwrecked three times, and that he had spent a day and a night in the deep! What is truly amazing about that statement is that he wrote that letter to them prior to this voyage we will be considering today!
- * As we began that series, we considered from 2 Corinthians 1 the purpose of afflictions - the reason that we should "embrace" them. It is through these situations that "press us" we experience the encouragement of the Father of all encouragements ... in order that WE might be able to put courage into (encouragement) others who are going through pressing situations, and that we might reveal the presence and power of God to those who do not know Him!
- * Today, we will see how God - in His Sovereignty - orchestrated events in order to provide Paul an ideal opportunity to share His power and presence with a large group of prisoners, soldiers and sailors!

INSTRUCTION**I. THE P_____ (v. 1-2)****II. THE P_____ (v. 2; cf. Matt 2:13; 3:7; 11:14; 16:27)****III. THE P_____ (v. 7-9,12)****A. The W_____ was Contrary to Their T_____**

* cf. Jonah 1:3-4; Exod 10:13, 19; 14:21; 15:10; Psalm 107:23-31 (43); 135:5-7

B. The H_____ was Contrary to Their W_____**IV. THE P_____ (v. 7-9,12)****A. The P_____ of Paul (cf. John 4: 19; Acts 7: 56; 10: 11; 17: 22)****B. The P_____ of the Owner****V. THE P_____ (v. 13-44)****A. An I_____ Wind (v. 13-26)**

1. THE C_____ BEFORE THE STORM

2. THE C_____ OF THE STORM

B. An I_____ Opportunity (v. 27-38)

1. PAUL'S E_____

a. His Admonition (v. 21)

b. His Vision (v. 22-24)

c. His Declaration (v. 25-26)

2. PAUL'S E_____

a. His Castigation (v. 30-32)

b. His Example (v. 33-38)

C. An I_____ Landing (v. 39-44)**INTROSPECTION**

- * Do you believe that God is Sovereign over the events of your life?
- * Do you look for opportunities for ministry during each "situation" that arises?
- * Are you willing to embrace the "storm" that you are traversing and ask God to use it for His glory?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How is the Sovereignty of God evidenced in the world events of today? How is evidenced in the affairs of your life?