**Paul’s Voyage to Rome (Acts 27-28): Josh read Acts 27 and Morgan read Acts 28**

We have been experiencing unusual times. Times where barber shops were closed but Liquor stores were open. Even recently the Knox County and Knoxville City Mayors wanted to ban baptisms as non-essential. Paul also went through unusual times. He was arrested, tried multiple times, and then put in prison. The reason for these trials: He was preaching the gospel of Jesus; the gospel of love, peace, hope, and salvation. He was to bear witness at Rome to Caesar (**Acts 23:11, 27:24**). Sent to Felix and Festus; then appealed to Caesar (**Acts 25:10-12**); then before King Agrippa (**Acts 26:32**).

**Slides for Kids and Review**

* Paul’s trip was full of uncertainties. Uncertainties can tempt us to doubt and to be anxious (**Phil. 4:6-7**).
* Sometimes we may be tempted to abandon God’s ship. In this case, Paul encourages all to stay on the ship or they would be lost (**Acts 27:31**). If we abandon the Lord’s ship we will be lost eternally (**I Timothy 1:18-20**).
* God watched over Paul and the others. God blesses His children and all people (**Matt. 5:43-48**).
* Many times liberties are provided to disciples when they live peaceably with neighbors and government (**I Tim. 2:1-4**). Notice privileges Paul was granted (**Acts 27:3, 43, 28:14-16, 30-31**).
* Paul could relate to being in isolation. He and those with him were limited in where they could go and what they could do for 3 months (**Acts 28:11**). Theirs lives were changed drastically. Then Paul went through another 2 years in isolation (**Acts 28:30**).
* Even in times of trials, Paul made opportunities to save. Just days after arriving in Rome, Paul calls for the Jewish leaders of the city (**Acts 28:17**). While under house arrest, he proclaimed the kingdom of God and the teachings of Jesus to all who would visit him (**Acts 28:30-31**). Remember Paul continues to preach the gospel even though that is what got him put in prison.
* While in custody, it is believed that Paul wrote the books of Colossians, Philippians, and Ephesians. Even in times of trials Paul was productive for the Lord (**Matthew 6:33-34**).
* Paul does not complain during these trials, but is busy for the Lord. While Paul was under house arrest, he taught visitors and the Roman guards he was chained to (**Philippians 1:12-14**). Every soldier that was chained to him would hear about the kingdom of God and the message of Jesus Christ (**Philippians 4:21-23**). How did Caesar's household know about those great Christians in Philippi? Paul told them (**2 Timothy 4:2**)!
* Many times when we go through physical and mental trials, we forget or neglect our job to love God and love our neighbor. That love includes sharing the gospel of salvation (**1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Jude 20-23**). Can you imagine teaching Caesar's household? Can you imagine preaching to the imperial guard of Rome? Let us preach and teach in all circumstances and let nothing hinder us from the work of the Lord.

Paul can relate to many things we are experiencing right now. **What about you and me? Will we be like Paul and make the most for the Lord of the circumstances we are in?**

**You know what motivated Paul the most?** He wanted to be with the Lord for eternity (**Titus 3:4-7**)! If you have not become a Christian this morning, you do not have any hope to live eternally. Jesus wants you to join His body, get on His ship so to speak. And then trust Him and follow Him to be saved eternally (**Galatians 3:26-29**).