

June 28th Sunday 2015

Text: Acts 26:24-32

Topic: Paul's Discussion with Festus and Agrippa

Festus could not understand why an educated man like Paul would give up freedom and even his life for the sake of a dead man called Jesus, Paul surely must be insane, Festus thought. But in real sense Paul was not insane, all these things concerning Jesus had been clearly foretold in the Old Testament, nothing is new to most of the Jewish population.

It was clear that Jesus was the savior described by their book (Old Testament) especially the prophets. Paul asks Agrippa if he believes the Prophet, this sent Agrippa into trouble. He did not want to take Paul's side, less Festus think he is insane too, since he is a Jew he could not deny what Paul said, it is Paul's purpose and desire to not only convert Agrippa and Festus but everyone present.

Everyone could see that Paul had committed no crime; they did not free him but find easy way to transfer him to Caesar.

Lesson: A believer is someone who desires and do all in his/her best to see that the whole world becomes Christians. What is your zeal towards converting the non-believers around you?

Prayer: My Saviour and my Lord, my heart is weak and not strong as I want, please help me to develop the desire to preach to people about Christ like Paul.

June 29th Monday, 2015

Text: Acts 27:1-12

Topic: Paul Sails for Rome

The narration in this passage shows as if the author of Acts of the Apostles was with Paul as he sailed to Italy, he uses the word "we boarded a ship", there were also other prisoners on the ship to be taken to Rome. Paul's company could not take one ship throughout the journey; they finally took another ship, full of grain from Egypt. The wind was so bad that the movement was rough, until they reach the harbor of fair haven. Due to bad weather they lost much time.

Paul was an experienced traveler, so he advised the centurion in-charge of the voyage not to sail any further, but to wait until winter was over. He predicted danger ahead yet because the harbor is small, the owner of the ship decided to sail to Phoenix, a large harbor. We should trust God to guide our steps in this month.

Lesson: Paul is a prophet and an experienced traveler. It is always good to listen to those who have experience when doing something.

Prayer: Lord Jesus bless me with listening ear so that I can listen to even my children for good advise in Jesus Name.

June 30th Tuesday 2015

Text: Acts 27:13-26

Topic: The Storm and Paul

When they were only two hours from reaching Phoenix, the desired destination a terrible storm from the North- East came upon them. The furious wind drove their ship

away from Land and toward the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. North East is a problem in most countries and so its winds are always dangerous. We also learn of North-East in Nigeria which brings Sahara desert into the country, if they had listen to what Paul told them they would have not encountered this. The wind created more trouble for them and this made them throw over board the spares sails and equipments. The ship went into confusion to the extent that they do not know where they are leading to. This led to the people giving up hope of living but Paul encourages them to cheer up for none of them will be lost.

As Angel of God had appear to Paul in the night assuring him that he will reach Rome and also that no one on board will be affected. There are many times in History when God has shown special mercy to people (Gen 18:22-32) because of Paul's presence among them on the ship God spared the lives of everyone on board but the ship was not spared.

Paul has confidence in His God and His word. This is also true with us today if we put our faith in God's promises. As we conclude this month may we appreciate God's faithfulness in keeping us safe and healthy. We should as his children make up our mind that our journey in life is not always smooth but it is certain that the Lord Jesus we worship is ever present, He keeps his promises of being with us to the end.(Matt. 28:20).

Lesson: Paul experience is terrifying but his faith in his God. He made it to the end; he faced every trouble for God's sake, what about you?

Prayer: Lord Jesus help me, I am not worthy.

DAILY LINK WITH GOD

JULY 2015

Introduction

In the opening verses of Paul's letter to the Galatians, he acknowledges the fact that he was sent by Christ Jesus himself and God the Father (1:1). To be considered an apostle in the early days meant that you were commissioned by Jesus personally (Acts 1:8) and you were also a witness of his resurrection (1 Cor. 15:5-8). On the road to Damascus, Paul (then called Saul) was confronted with the risen Christ. In an instant he knew that the stories he had been hearing about Jesus were true. He also knew that the zeal he possessed to destroy the church was misguided. On the Damascus Road Paul's life changed forever. He would spend the rest of his life as a spokesman or ambassador for Christ.

Many people who claim to have had a personal encounter with the risen Christ. Like the Apostle Paul, their lives have been impacted too. It is hard to say how each of these persons experienced this divine meeting.

I came to the saving knowledge of Christ later in my life. I was in my forties. I knew about Jesus and had been brought up in church. But I had wandered away from the faith and was living "my own life." To make a long story short, through certain events in my life, God brought me to my knees and I cried out to Him for mercy. It was during this time of spiritual awakening for me that I felt the presence of the risen Christ. I was sitting outside contemplating my next move in the new life I had just been given; when all of a sudden I realized I was not alone. Somehow I "felt" the presence of Jesus himself. I can't describe it other than to say I knew he was right next to me. Suddenly, a peace swept over me and I had an assurance that everything was going to be O.K.

Lesson: God is able to change the life of a person no matter how stubborn he may be.

Prayer: God, you control all things. Each of our lives are in your capable hands. You have called us all to be spokespersons for you. Lord, who are you sending to me this day? Help me to be aware of these divine encounters you are putting before me. Help me Lord, be more attentive to your purpose for me today. Amen

July 1st Wednesday 2015

Text: Galatians 1: 1-5

Topic: Delivered by Christ

God's will for all humanity is to rescue us from this evil age by Christ's sacrifice. All God asks from us is to believe. Why is humanity so stubborn and resistant to God's gracious offer? This is the question that we all must answer for ourselves. For God's part, He has reached down from heaven and opened the way for us to Him. Through Christ's sacrificial death we have the forgiveness of sins! Even more than that, belief in Christ has delivered us from the realm in which sin is irresistible into the realm where he himself is Lord. "Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father" (1:4)

Some people are afraid to trust in the promises of God. Even some people who attend church on a regular basis. It's as if their consciences have been "seared as with a hot iron" (1 Timothy 4:2). If this is true then the reason that some people will not

believe is that there is something wrong in their thinking. This is only a fatal circumstance if they persist in this “flawed” thinking, never giving God’s ways a chance.

Have you opened your thinking to this simple message of God? Jesus Christ (God in the flesh) came to earth to die for all who believe. The reward is a new life now and an eternal reward in heaven.

Lesson: Christ died on the cross and was raised to life for the salvation of the world from death. Salvation is available only through Him because He is the way, the truth and the life.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die for me. Thank you, Lord, for the forgiveness of sins through belief in Jesus’ sacrificial work on the cross. Let me live today with gratitude in my heart for all you have done for me. Amen

July 2nd Thursday 2015

Text: Galatians 1:6-10

Topic: No Other Gospel:

Paul wastes no time in getting to the point of his letter. The Apostle had received word that his new converts were abandoning the gospel of free grace which he had preached to them. The message to his Galatians' friends were accepting is one so different from the message Paul had preached that he calls it a “different gospel,” and therefore, no gospel at all. Paul preached the message of justification by faith apart from the works of the law. Paul is astonished that his converts are deserting the only saving message so quickly.

Justification is a theological term meaning “made righteous in the sight of God.” The Apostle knew first hand that salvation by works led only to bondage and estrangement from God. The gospel he preached was the “good news” of Jesus Christ, and there could be no other. Salvation and life can only come through the grace of God appropriated by the “hearing of faith” (Romans 10:17).

There are many people who preach “another gospel” these days. They range from the faith healers who are out for their own gain, to those who promote a works-based approach complete with judgments for those who don’t measure up. What gospel are you sitting under? Are you receiving a steady diet of the salvation message of grace through Jesus Christ? If not, the Apostle Paul says those preachers will be eternally condemned. If you are not hearing the gospel of Christ you should go somewhere where this message is being proclaimed. After all, do you want to please men or God?

Lesson: There is only one God. There is only one Gospel. "paying attention to a different gospel" will lead to a tragic ending.

Prayer: O Great Jehovah, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, help me know your Son more. If I am in a church that is preaching another gospel, lead me to a place where Jesus Christ is being proclaimed. Let me seek to please you, God. Amen

July 3rd Friday 2015

Text: Galatians 1:8

Topic: Beware of Counterfeits

“...even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you...” (1:8)

It is the message and not the messenger that ultimately matters. The gospel preached by Paul is not the true gospel because Paul preached it; it is the true gospel because the risen Christ gave it to Paul to preach. He wrote that even if he or another apostle or even an angel from heaven were to bring a different message, both the messenger and the counterfeit message should be rejected. Paul was so convinced that his message of Christ remain paramount in the lives of believers he stated that the curse of the Lord would rest on those who brought a counterfeit message.

How can we recognize a counterfeit message? It is similar to experts who can recognize counterfeit money. The experts don't spend a lot of time studying the different kinds of ways money can be copied. Instead, they study the real thing. They become so familiar with real money that counterfeit money sticks out because of its imperfections. As Christ-followers we should be able to realize the same thing. As we study the Bible, pry and experience life in an authentic fellowship of like believers we can become experts in the power of a Christ-filled existence. This takes work. There are numerous books in the New Testament concerning the dangers of false teaches. False teachers are with us today as well. In both the books of Colossians and 1st John the authors (Paul and John) warn their readers about false teachers. But they spend most of their time exalting the efficacy of Christ's death and resurrection and the grace available to all who believe.

Lesson: In these days, we have many false teachers and prophets. We need to be vigilant to avoid falling into the trap of these false preachers. The gospel of Christ is the only true gospel.

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for coming to earth and dying for me. Keep me focused on you and help me realize that all good things are available to me because of you. Amen

July 4th Saturday 2015

Text: Galatians 1:10

Topic: Who are you trying to please?

Paul knew he had been called to preach the gospel. He was confident in being a follower/servant of Christ. As Saul, he had served the Jewish leaders and was persecuting Christians. He was trying to win the favor of men with all his hard work. ("If I were **still** trying to please men..."1:10).

But as Paul, he had no master but Christ. Because he was a servant, he tried to please no one except his master. What did Paul do to please his master, Christ? He preached the gospel he was given. He brought the message of Jesus Christ (crucified and resurrected) to the Gentiles. This was his whole life and he did not do it to receive any honor or glory from men.

What about us? Have we been called to be servants and followers of Jesus Christ? If we believe in Jesus, then we are also commissioned to **go** to all nations and peoples, to baptize them in the name of Jesus, and to teach them to obey the commands of Jesus (Matthew 28:20). As we go through this day, let us check all our actions. Are we trying to gain the approval of men or are we doing everything to please our Master?

Lesson: We should remember that only God shall we worship, in all that we do. We should not follow the leading of people but be led by the Spirit of God.

Prayer: Lord, help me to serve only you, to follow your commands and to continually tell others your good news. Amen