**Stay With The Ship**

(Acts 27:31 KJV)

*Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.*

A

s we glance around in our country today, as we watch the local news, or the CNN, MSNBC, FOX or read the newspaper at home, make no doubt about it, we see ourselves in a national storm. We are in a storm because everyday many people are being targeted with racial tension, discrimination has come out of the closet, people are losing their homes to foreclosure, Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, Social Security is being placed on the back burner, people are losing their jobs—and they don’t have enough money to pay their bills.

There are many families today that are so depressed, distraught, dismantled mentality—and stressed out because they do not know how they are going to survive on a day to day basis. But yet in the midst of the storm that we are in, there is still hope for us in the future, and especially hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let's face the fact, that life is full of storms—while you and I pursue our God given dreams we will encounter many storms. In fact, some will be mild storms, and others will be difficult storms. And ironically, the life that we live on this earth is full of troubles and storms. So, when we're faced with troubles and storms of life we need to remember what Jesus said in:

(John 16:33 KJV)

*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Very few people today have experienced as many difficulties in their life as Paul did. He was on a first name basis with trouble. In (2ndCorinthians 11: 23-28), Paul shares some of his experiences with trouble. He is not **complaining** about them, but he’s in **conversation** with us—letting us know that he understands what trouble is all about. He says:

(2ndCorinthians 11: 23-28 KJV)

***23****Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.****24****Of the Jews* ***five times*** *received I forty stripes save one.****25Thrice*** *was I beaten with rods,* ***once*** *was I stoned,* ***thrice*** *I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;****26****In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;****27****In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.****28****Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.*

But what I liked about Paul—troubles couldn’t put Paul down. He refused to be defeated by them. They failed in detouring him from serving God. Let me help you with something—at some point we all have storms—we all will get them at some time in our lives. It’s not when will they happen—it’s more like how will we respond to them when they arrive? They are difficult! But when God is your anchor, that condition is not your conclusion! In the text, **Paul** is the **Pastor** aboard the **ship**, the **Passengers** are the **Members**, and the **ship** is the **metaphor** of the **Church**. So when the storms arrive, The **members** need to obey the **Pastor's** request and "**Stay In The Ship**!"