THE NIGHT OF THE SHIPWRECK

Acts 27:6-44

Many Shipworth Regarded in history

Thips Band - Played Nearer My Her

INTRODUCTION:

which was to visit Rome. And finally a ship had been arranged, and Paul had been delivered into the hands of the centurion. And this centurion was kind to the prisoner. For he gave him certain liberties to visit with his friends on this trip. If you know anything about the country in they have a harbor there built by rocks where the sea comes in. Finally we discover that Paul is on a ship that was loaded with wheat on her way from Egypt to Italy. Such grain ships usually carried prisoners, or passengers or other cargo. Which we read in V.6 that this ship was heavy-laden and Paul is on his way to Rome.

As we consider our subject tonight, I think there is no tale or story about the sea as interesting as a shipwreck. It is always sad but it is fearful. And the long conflict of weary men, the wind, and the wayes - the signal of distress that is never seen. And the cry for help that is never heard. The hunger and thirst, and torture of the crew - with visions of hope and dreams of despair. As you listen to the waile of the storm that breaks on the shore, with the burden of sorrows on the sea. Those that are waiting at home anxiously for their beloved ones and yet they are delayed in coming. Many has been the story of those who have gone to sea. And never returned.

Now we who live on the coast here are very familiar with hurricanes. And the eye of a hurricane that may be completely calm but as the hurricane approaches, we batten down the hatches, we board up the windows, we stock up with provisions. We get the family indoors and we are ready to ride out the storm. The rains fall in

that we can relax but then the storm strikes again with new furer and life is like that. Sometimes we must beware when we think about an easy road.

Julyon are on board -

But this 27th chapter of Acts, is the (most) accurate and complete account of an ancient seafaring group on record. Paul, the prisoner, was on a grain ship bound from Alexandria to Egypt to Rome. And the ancients considered the sea trave) unsafe in the Mediterranean from October 1 until the middle of March. It was already in this danger period. With the ship safely anchored in a small port called Fair Havens.

But it was just about 40 miles more to a city on Crete and the captain proposed that they go there for the winter. It is this decision that brings about the story of the night of shipwreck. Tanks they are the was a sallow the story of the Most of Sallow that they are the was a ship to the form the story to the sallow the story to the sallow the story of the sallow that the was a sallow that they are the sallow that the sallow that the sallow the sallow that the sallow the sallow that the sallow that the sallow the sallow the sallow that the sallow the sallow that the sallow that the sallow the sallo

I want to use four words tonight to build this story and this sermon. First, sailing, V. 6-13. Second, storms, V. 14-26. Third, shipwreck, V. 27-40. Fourth, safe-landing, V. 41-44.

Rev 21 - No More So

Now if you will get your Bibles and you will follow along, you will not go to sleep. This is one of the most interesting, wide-awake stories about the sea anywhere to be found in the Bible.

6-13 Ust - tooking for Ship To Ataly 12 3 all Coast time and, Sidon, Eypour, Myra V,6

passed to a place called Fair Havens. They were discussing, V. (12) - the proposition of leaving here. Fair Havens, they spent this time here during the stormy season and

wind,

V18

the hurricanes. The captain decided that he had had a long delay, and he wished to travel on.

V. 9-12 Paul ventured to give some advice. And he warns these men against sailing in the same way that God put this upon his heart.

Now the owner of the ship and the centurion did not agree. They thought of the prisoners and they thought of the soldiers - and they thought about the wheat. And the grain needed to go on to Rome.

There was another reason behind their thinking. This city did not offer them any first-class accommodations. And outstanding entertainment for the crew. The crew knew about this, and the travelers accommodations were so poor - that they wanted to put on out to sea anyway and try.

But never since men began to sail on the sea, has any shipwreck been invested with such deep interest as the one in which Paul had a part in. And by which he was cast with 275 others safe on a rocky shore later on. Now we all know this story.

And how it ended with the serving of Christ.

But Paul was a wonderful man on this voyage as they set sail, he could visualize somethings that would take place.

V. (13 - When the (South wind blew) softly.

They set sail, it was a beautiful day. A warm South wind blowing. They were sure that they had made the right decision. And this many times is what we have to consider in life. When things are going well, and the soft wind was followed by a gale that swept down upon them. The mariners of this ship fell victim to what one has called the snare of the South wind. They were safe in port - but they were

desirous of a more exciting place where there would be better entertainment and a better place to spend the winter. And despite the warnings, man always resents restrictions that are placed upon him. And so they loose anchor and they lift the sail from Fair Havens - and soon they sail. And they are underway.

It is a magnificient thing when people board a liner. For a trip, and the ship sails. It is a magnificient sight when men sail out on some of the huge aircraft carriers which we have stationed here at Norfolk, Virginia. With the bands playing, with the tension high, with the goal and the purpose of going to sea. Sailing.

Paul's ship left the port.

II. THE STORM - V. 14-16

V. 14 The winds shifted and was soon beating upon them.

Fishermen know what took place in a few minutes - when the wind changes, in a very few minutes the boat is being tossed like a feather. And if the body of water is very large - the only safe place is on the shore. If you have ever been out fishing in a small boat then you'd better make for the shore when the North Easter begins.

And this is exactly what it was. The wind was called euroclydon. A North East wind. It was cold. It swept down suddenly. It churned up the sea like a bowl of water. And the ship was ill-prepared to face such a blow. The anchor was on the deck. They did not even have time to lower the main sails. They had an emergency rescue boat that had been left trailing behind the ship. And they worked hard when the

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gale struck - they drew the boat and tried to lower the sails.

That is the way this sharp South wind changed.

and all of a sudden something takes away that strength. You say I am healthy, and I have all of my health and then it is lost in a day. You say I have security, I'll get along and make my way. And then somehow these material things fly away. You need something stronger than a man's arm - you need something stronger than a chart and a compass. And Jesus Christ is all of this. But here is a raging storm.

Drawn - Thinky Midded, Deceived - History Rocks - History - History Capable - History Capab

There was a desperate effort to get rid of the freight and the baggage, and the rigging and the furniture. And on a vessel such as this, a man will give all that he has in exchange for his life.

I don't know whether you have ever been in a leaky boat or not, but if you have been in one with a wind storm, you know how much you work under the circumstances. The strain of both mind and body - the demand of labor upon the crew. The terror of the passengers. The hopeless working at the pumps. And these circumstances were aggrevated during the storm because there was the blackness - the darkness.

The Bible says, no sun, no stars, appeared for many days.

There was hunger, there was the lack of food. And there was great distress.

When we think about Paul on that last night of his long voyage, walking up and down the heaving deck, among those hardened wreckless seamen - waiting for the day. It was a strange thing. For this defenseless Hebrew prisoner to stand forth on the

dark and terrible night in the deep. Both - he was the commander and the comforter of the men. Who thought it a small matter to take his life. Lest this feeble old man plunged into the wild breakers - swim ashore and escape their hands.

The circumstances of this long voyage during this storm, is very fascinating.

- V. 15 They saw that they could not handle this ship so they let her drive.
- of the danger of quick-sands and the danger of the winds pounding the ship with the mighty waves.
- v. 17 We lightened the ship the bags of grain. During this storm trying to ride out this storm everyday was worse than the day before.

He said on the third day - V. 19 We cast over the sails and the tackling of the ship was abandon.

days there were no stars. The tempest lay about us. There was sea, water, and waves everywhere.

They had been driven 14 days and nights before a raging Northeast storm - without the sight of sun or the stars.

At that time, navigation depended far more than now, upon a clear sky and a fair wind, and a visible shore. They did not have the charts I am sure. They followed the captain's eye. They did not have the cuadrant. They looked to the sky - and put the ship's bow into the sea. They had no chrometer with which to mark the slow

And now for the long fearful struggle with the tempest. The wind blew a gale. The waves ran high and wild. The rain poured down in torrents. The angry elements beat with ceaseless rage upon the torn sail, the shattered mask, and the reeling deck. The groaning timbers parted. And water as fast as a 100 hands could bail it out. Everybody on board was wet through and through. No opportunity to take food or rest. So they were driven 14 days and nights helplessly. There was no hope that was left that a single life, a passenger, or a crew member could be saved.

People grayed to their various Gods and I am sure they did. Men cried out for help. When they get into deep trouble. And surely in that storm and on that ship there were some who were praying.

As Charles Aims wrote in his poem - The ship may sink

And I may drink

A hasty death in the bitter sea

But all that I leave

In the ocean grave

Can be slipped and spared and no loss to me.

We thinking of sailing and then we think of this storm. Lature knows nothing of Lords and Kings - for the ocean is her majesty. And the wrath she would pass out. Whether it be for the Caesars - it makes no difference.

Somebody writing about Napoleon once talked about the time when he gave an order - they were in the midst of a storm. And he had about 200 of his soldiers that had been plunged into the raging sea. And very few of whom escaped. The emperor instantly ordered the boats out to rescue the perishing crew. He was told no boat could live in such a sea. He then ordered a company of his brave men to man a boat. And as he sprang the first into a large boat - exclaimed, followed me my brave fellows. They had

erect near the helmsman. Onward onward he cried. His voice swelling above the tempest roar. But the daring effort was vain progress in such a sea was impossible.

Push on push on cried Napoleon do you not hear those cries.

Oh this sea, this sea, he exclaimed. Clinching his fists - it rebells against our power. But it may be conquored.

At this moment a mighty billow struck the boat with tremendous force, And drove it back quivering to the shore. It seems as though this was the ocean's answer; or rather the answer of the God of the ocean, to the proud monarch. Napoleon was cast ashore by the billows of the stormy sea. Like a drifting fragment of dripping sea weed.

Weed. Carton - Matt a Jefg - for time and Journal across Sea, to weed, several up diamonds: on the way tone, great storm broke up ship to the provide the storm broke up ship to the provide the storm broke up the form and the form of the storm without to the scars - with the winds and the waves dashing. There was the Apostle, God's man, and there were the immoral men also on that ship.

III. SHIPWRECK - V. 27-41 Many Thip Duch attack - N.C. Coat - Halling -

During the storm, Paul tried to encourage these men and brought them a divine communication. In V. 24 he said, there, I have a message that God hath given me.

V. 25 he said, sirs, be of good cheer. I believe God will take care of us.

darkness, and nothing could be seen. But there was no mistake about the sound. It was the roar of breakers upon the shore. They cast the lead twice and they found that they were rapidly approaching an unseen coast.

V. 29 - They cast out four anchors. They had sounded and tested the bottom and they thought the bottom was rocky, and they cast these four anchors of the stern.

And this was to allow the bow to pick up toward the beach. And the news Paul had given them - they did not know whether to take it or not. But here - it is strange.

God did not speak to one of the influential merchants on the ship. He did not even speak to the captain of the ship. God did not speak to the centurion. But God spoke to a good man a spiritual man, and it was the voice of God.

Now Conight, the carnal man cannot hear the voice of God. Think about it. If 10 righteous people could have been found in Sodom and Gomorrah. Righteous people in any place are work, power, and strength. And Paul save them the assurance that God would see that all 275 souls were saved. And as he listens to the winds howling and the waves pounding, and the dark sky - I can imagine the others only felt the dangers. They cast the four anchors. A helpless, hopeless situation. That has been repeated time and time again as men prayed for daybreak.

hearts, we would never be forced to close any church, chapel, or mission anywhere in this land. All the services would be crowded. The gifts would be plentiful. The secret of Paul's great life was that first of all he was right with God. And second of all the always tried to be in the place that God wanted him. Paul was not ashamed of being a Christian and serving God. He said I believe God - that it shall happen even as God said. And the storm was still raging. Do you believe God when he tells you that he will come and save you. Would you put your trust in him. Even tonight as he says I will save you from Hell - do you believe his promise. Do you believe that he will answer your prayers.

The sails were gone - no body was running the ship. It was drifting before the storm with breakers ahead.

What about the Things That disign to interfere? 14 way raging storm - if one sailor teams

And they captain was afraid because he had cast these anchors. And everybody wished for the daybreak.

There are some anchors for you to cast out. If we had time to talk about them!

There is the Bible, the Word of God. There is prayer. There is the cross. Here is the church that you need to have relationship with and fellowship with. There are so many anchors in life that you might throw out to hold your life during the storm - if you would only do it.

V130-31 - Some were going X Sant Themselfer - 5 ye only on The Ship! Ark +

Now in the meantime, taking Paul's advice, whose word had come to be more than the seaman, and the captains. V. 34 they refreshed themselves with some food and employed their time between midnight and morning. V. 38 By throwing some wheat into the sea.

The sailors decided that they had better save themselves - and they did not care about the prisoners but they simply wanted to save their own lives. But Paul says no, everyone stay on board and elets give thanks for this food. Now the common peril was that somebody wanted to become a hero. The soldiers forgot all about Paul - what he had done for them and they planned to kill him.

V. 3 But God works behind the scenes to care of his people and to bring about his great purposes.

And so, V. 40-41 as the day dawn. The ropes were cut to the anchors. And it struck at some distance from land and the ship began to break up, the Bible says, because of the violent waves. Now the whole 276 persons were cast live and struggling into the midst of the breakers. They were exhausted, they were cold, they were hungry, and they were weary. From the many nights and days of the restless plunging and rolling

and they could have had little strength left to battle the billows on that shore.

Now the ship broke up and cast them on the shore. Now this was as Paul had said. The angel of the Lord stood by me in a vision. And God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Now this word must somehow be fulfilled. That neither wind, nor wave, nor hunger could take the life of one of those 275 persons sailing with Paul in the ship. God had given his servant the answer. Now this is a tremendous thought - this shipwreck is powerful. As we see that these men, all of them, as the ship is wrecked on the shore, and the anchors are cut - the ropes with axes. And the ship leaps and ran a ground, and then began to be beaten by the waves and to break up into pieces. The ship was wrecked.

IV. SAFE LANDING - V. 41-44

As the ship began to break up, it was critical moment. And we discover that the Bible says in V. 44 that some of them that were able to swim made for the land. Others got aboard a broken piece of ship, as it came by and they were cast upon the shore. I don't know - it is just like a man today catches a surf board. He rides it onto the beach. And they escaped - all were safe on land. We need to underscore that - all were safe upon the land.

Paul was worth more at his duty - as a servant of Christ, than anything else.

Now this lead me to say that every servant of Christ, wherever he may be, is of great value. Never discount the riches of a good man in your presence. He, who makes the winds blow can minister, to a man like this. God will take care of life. And I think God will take care of any man's life. Who does his task. He will keep him safe and he will bring him through dangers. And when God is through with him, he will enter into

his rest.

God will take care of the influence and reputation of men. We don't have to worry about that. We only have to live. And Raul was this kind of man. There is not another man with such great power as Paul exerted his influence upon these men at night. Paul was many nights in the deep and it teaches us that a man needs to be looking about his honor and this will be his safety. The dangers will come. God's man will be safe. None who live for Christ can ever be lost.

have passed, the great company of the Lord Jesus will be gathered together. None who trust in Jesus have failed to escape - safe to the Heavenly shores. All who have ever enlisted under the captain of salvation, whose names have been written in the book of life, shall appear when the roll of the ransom is called.

Some shall come out of the great tribulation. Some from dungeons and torture.

Some who shine in glory like the stars of the firmament, shall come out. And some will come with earthly fame. Only with a pure heart.

Some will come who have been on this earth as pilgrims of pain. Whose body has perished - through the nerves and the sufferings of the soul and the body.

Some shall be there who lived a long time in this world. And who came and were delivered out of a pit of darkness.

come from humble homes where they have consecrated their lives by Christian faith.

men who have taken their place at the feet of Jesus.

-14-

Book g 4- - Come will come from lowly occupations. Some will come from seats of riches - powerful

Little children will come who have fainted beneath the burden of life at the beginning of the journey. But have been with the angels waiting for this day. All will be there. All shall escape safe to the Heavenly shore. When Christ counts up, his chosen and beloved after all the storms of earth have spent, and the wrecks of sin upon the shore of time, none who relied on him for rescue shall be lost. No follower of His shall be wanting. When the old body is broken into pieces. He'll gather on that blessed shore.

Not one will be missing. I think how different it is on earth when we gather at some glad meeting. When Christ shall call his ransomed home. But here on earth we come together from time to time. The years roll along. The ranks are not all full.

Old Erk Nool Self Shul Doy -

The family circle forms again during the festival days. There are more faces and silent pictures on the wall. To one there is a beloved name that no longer answers. The storms of affliction and sorrow beat around us.

We visit sometimes the former places we've been after a long absence. And some of the friends of other years, we are told - one and another, he has gone the way in which he will not return.

It is like those who come home from war) Those who come with victory banners — the heroes. But even in their ranks there are often places that are unfilled. We shout for joy over the returning ones. But there are many who weep) There are many who do not come back. There are many hearts who are breaking because of silent grief and bloody graves. And because of one word — missing.

The ship of salvation has ever-lasting strength. It is guided by hope. It has the helm. It will not fail to reach the port of peace. All are safe who sail the seas of time with Christ aboard. All others are destine to shipwreck. And to destruction.

A giant steamer in mid-ocean - the wind was fair and strong. The engines were toiling. The sails were all spread to help. And the wind began to bound the ship foreward like a sea bird fresh upon the wing. It was a returning voyage and a few more mornings they would be home to their native land. The hopeful, happy passengers walked the deck. Cheerful voices and laughter. And sudden lerk of the ship - a cry of terror. A plunge in the waves - and one of the happy company was struggling for life in the deep. Quick, thought - someone to the rescue. Trope was thrown to the drowning man. He caught it because - or before he was swept back on the foaming wake of the ship. And strong arms drew him aboard. The rescued man had grasp the rope with such desperate energy he could not unclasp his own hands. When safe on the deck. They found that the strands of the rope were embedded in the living flesh---now this is the way that man clings to anything that will save him from a watery grave. With such a quick decision - the grasp, he held on when life is at stake.

all the storms of wreck and time have passed. But those who have been ransomed by the Lord, will land safely on Heaven's shore.

Not many years ago a disaster took place on the shore of Isle of Wight. In the confusion, a young woman was swept overboard. She found a piece of wreckage and clung to it. She was drifting out across the sea. The captain of another vessel saw the object at a distance and sent some sailors to investigate. When they reached it, they heard the woman's voice—lifted in song. Jesus lover of my soul. Let me to thy bosom fly. While the near waters roll. While the tempest still is high.

Things Do Not Just happen in our Lives My own life savel then one Boy - Looking back Hide me, oh my Saviour hide. I see Hend of Lord Tombig Me - Calling me out -Til the storm of life is passed Pestor of This Dear Church - Truto Choice, Committeet. Safe into the haven guide Things was not Just happen -We are here saved, southed mother, godly Father, 505 tracker How much we own to so Few / -Oh, receive my soul at last. Cain - Shur Dro - And sow of! Cain Did not realing that mit Nathan point out - Winter B. 51

Dend - Simil Addition in the Belshampan " Jack bend with on wall.

Belshampan - Drunk

Prodigial son Addition out to sea with peace in her heart. Jesus had come and had

I am weak, I come the helplem & dying, East myself upon Thy mucy - terms me y sin Had has his own purpose for own hour - They Do not Flow as we kopied wonderful " Sal : is own for The orshing, responding, having My friend, wherever you are tonight, the waves will roll over your head someday.

The Judgement fires will burn. And you are going to need a Savior. And you are going to need the old ship of Zion And I plead with you to turn your back upon the sin of the world today. Put your life in the hands of Christ.

Fracher who day dying What will you do now? Do"? He Eshed "It will do nothing. This has done I all I will Throw overboard my eargo of good works, and flood to glory) on The plant of free grave That is your only hope regardless if how good or bad you may be

We are Savel by grace -

progress of the weary hours. The ship was lunging and rolling through the darkness over the black and the bounding deep.

They had not the compass points that would give them the quarters of the Heaven - where God had placed the North - and the pole star.

Their ship was little better than what we might call a canal boat. Just a small boat - it was perhaps blunted at both ends. It's bow and stern were made after the same model. There was no delicate sharp lines, to cut the water. And it had but one mast and it was set upright in the middle. So that the full pressure of the cross-wind upon the sails would pry the planks and timbers apart like a wedge. The whole arrangement of the rigging - that was well fitted before the wind - left the ship almost powerless. To bear up against the breeze.

The vessel was large enough to carry 300 men and a cargo of wheat. In the hold.

And it had ventured upon a stretch of sea that was periless, during October gales
and yet it had nothing like the helm or the rutter which we know. There were paddles
loosely lashed to the sides. Running down to the water near the stern.

The first day of a storm they ran under the leave of a small island and the seamen tried to improve their opportunity. By taking in the sail. They hauled up the long boat which had been towing behind them, and fearless - lest they lose that or it go to pieces. They cast ropes beneath the keel, and tied it across the deck.

V. 19 The second and the third day all joined hands - soldiers and sailors, prisoners and passengers, Paul - his companion looped with the rest - throwing over board everything that could be reached of the furniture and ladened of the ship. The wheat was down in the hole in the hatches. They could not be safely opened at that point. The sea was flooding the deck from stem to stem. At every plunge of the vessel.

When the storm rages and the strong ships go down before the storm - for sure the shore will be scattered with wrecks. Now that is what happens at some of the gatherings here on this earth. Some are missing Many times, the lost are here never found. The farther we go on the journey.

But we remember who is enlisted under the captain of salvation - we remember them all. None will be lost. None will be wanting. We'll pass through the golden streets and we'll be welcomed by the shout of angels right to the throne of the king. Christ is the victory. The sea is calm at his command.

I think of that hymn Master, careth thou not that we perish. Peace be still. The stormy wind may come but all are safe who sail in the ship with him. If you take Christ, you may be exposed to the storms but you cannot lose your path. You cannot fail to reach Heavenly rest.

There is nothing like getting on his ship because you are going to have a safe landing.

Now you may follow selfishness, you may follow pride, you may follow after your ambition. You may even let procrastination put off the most urgent thing that you have today.

But if you will follow Christ, he will make all of your sorrow and trials, and losses of this earth to become your ministers. You will not suffer the powers of darkness to hurt you.

This is the one great truth that the Christian has. All who trust in Christ are safe, safe, safe.

They are safe everywhere. They are safe now. They are safe forever.

Heaven and earth may pass away - but his Word which is the shield of hope shall never pass away.

It shall never be written in his book of life against the name of any soul.

That trusted in him (lost or missing).

Here am I - saved by his blood. Victorious by his might. And the king will bring me and crown me safely to his harbor.

The ship of salvation which is launched upon the periless sea of time is large enough to hold all who wish to sail with him.

It is strong enough to over-ride every storm.

You remember the old ark when Noah and his family entered. God shut the door.

It was strong enough to withstand the floods and the storms of life.

Now this is the truth - all are free to enter this ship. The everlasting riches of Heaven can be secured with certainty tonight - more certain that the perishable riches of earth.

Now many divers go down to search for perils but they come up empty-handed. But any man who will go after the peril of infinite Christ is sure to find it.

No man who ever sought the riches in Christ was ever disappointed. His riches are available.

You have only to knock - with nothing but the name of Christ and all of your necessities will be met. The angel comes - if men were only half as anxious to have their names put in the books of Heaven as they are in the little circles of fashion upon this earth.