

*In  
search  
of*

# Truth and Right

*Tim Henderson, Editor*

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*"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Philipians 4:8 (NASB-U)*

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## *How to handle a shipwreck like Paul*

*By: Bubba Garner*

via—Biblical Insights, Vol. 7, No. 4, April 2007

**It almost reads like a novel:** -- A ship full of prisoners rocked by violent winds and waves, a storm so fierce that neither the sun nor stars were seen for several days, a situation so desperate that it led to the loss of the cargo, the ship, but not a single life. Hollywood couldn't touch this story. God Himself scripted it.

It's hard to read Acts 27 without thinking of 2 Corinthians 11. It's hard to read 2 Corinthians 11, period. Among the "*light afflictions*" suffered in his service as a soldier of the cross, Paul lists "*three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep*" (2 Corinthians 11:25). Even though that was written before his experience at the end of Acts, it gives us a glimpse of all Paul had been through as he made his final voyage to Rome.

I have never been shipwrecked. In fact, the only time I was on boat, I got seasick. But I have witnessed people whose lives were wrecked by catastrophe. I have seen hopes that were dashed on the rocks. I have experienced the helpless feeling of sinking to rock bottom. And the principles Paul used to deal with his disaster are the same ones that all of us can put to use as we seek to handle our own storms of life.

And what can we learn from a chapter in Acts that is often ignored?

**Listen to the Voice of Experience:** -- With the ship safely in Fair Havens and the storm season ahead of them, Paul admonished his captors, "*Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be attended with damage and great loss*" (vs. 10). While some commentators argue that to be *divine* perception, the Greek word literally means "to perceive from past experience." Remember, Paul had already endured three shipwrecks he knew that it was dangerous to put out to sea that late in the year. "*But the centurion was more per-*



TIMES OF SERVICES	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	
Bible Classes*	10:00 AM
AM Worship	10:45 AM
PM Worship	6:30 PM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
Bible Classes*	7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)	

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*suaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul" (vs. 11). How many times he must have regretted that decision in the days that followed!*

When life throws questions at us, we want the right answers. When uncertainty surrounds us, we need something that cannot be shaken or moved. Do not fear; we have an anchor. Consider Jesus, our High Priest, who *"has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin"* (Heb. 4:15). He can sympathize with our weaknesses. He can help solve our problems. He knows what it feels like to be in the middle of a storm-tossed sea. Listen to His voice. You won't regret it.

**Navigate more toward Prayer:** -- Paul's faith in God helped keep the ship together. When an angel assured him that their voyage would not be met with death, he told the men, *"keep up your courage, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told"* (vs. 25). When the sailors feared that they would run aground onto the rocks, *"they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come"* (vs. 29). And even when Paul convinced them to eat after fourteen days of work and worry, they did so only after he *"took bread and gave thanks to God"* (vs. 35). Prayer was one thing that was not tossed overboard.

We expect the preacher to tell us to pray. We anticipate that the "wise" counsel of the elders or our parents or our spouse to be, "you need to pray about this." But have you ever tried it? It works! Instead of relying on your own strength and skill, turn to Him who can command the wind and still the sea. When you're encompassed by the night of mourning pray for morning to come. And when you begin to see your way out, stop and give thanks to God. He will carry you through.

**Hold on to what you have:** -- With land finally in sight, they steered toward the beach only to hit a reef that would allow them to go no farther. As the waves beat against the ship, causing it to break up, their only option was to abandon ship and swim for shore. Those who could not swim grabbed hold of planks and other pieces of the ship and paddled. *"And so...they were brought safely to land"* (vs. 44).

You cannot expect every situation to be ideal. The pieces of life's puzzle seldom fall exactly along the course you have plotted. Instead of drowning in the discouragement of one calamity after another, reach for a plank. You may not be able to have everything, but you can hold on to what you do have. Amid all the uncertainties and unknowns on the horizon, stand firm on the ground that *"I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day"* (2 Timothy 1:12). Just hold on and keep moving toward higher ground.

## *Effective Workers*

*By: Gary Patton*

via—East Florence Contender

The business world is constantly scanning the work force for those people who will make them effective workers. An effective worker is one who not only does his job well, but can be counted on to be loyal and diligent in his relationship to the company. When a business consists of this kind of employees, it will be successful for years to come.

The same is true when one enters the Lord's labor force. Upon obedience to the gospel, not only do people become children of God but also laborers in His kingdom. For one to be an affective worker for the Lord, that is to "be the best he can be," certain things are necessary.

### **Conviction**

Being convinced or believing in what one does will have a great deal to do with one's success. The belief that the church is right and the most important area of work for mankind is most essential.

Only when we truly believe there is one true church (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23) in which salvation is found will it mean something to us. This conviction will also help to keep us from going along with denominations of man. A lesson some, who claim to be members of the Lord's church, have not learned. Their actions of acknowledging those outside the body of Christ as brethren in the Lord and worshipping jointly in ways not authorized in God's word, bears fruit of a lack of conviction as the rightness of the church of our Lord.

When we are truly convinced “*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God*” (John 3:5), and that Christ is the Savior of the body the one church (Ephesians 5), will we cease our half-hearted service.

### **Aggressiveness**

The aggressive worker is the one who gets things accomplished. He is aggressive because he believes the work must be done and that he must do all he can to see he does his part fully. The lack of aggressiveness in our work for the Lord tends to develop the attitude of letting someone else do the work. Such a disposition can cause us to become lazy and slothful workers.

We must be aggressive in preaching and teaching God's word. Aggressively means without fear or favor, uncompromisingly, yet frankly and kindly -- “*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ*” (Ephesians 4:5); “*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted*” (Galatians 6:1). We can privately teach those we come in contact with as well as aggressively support the preaching of the gospel both with our presence and money. The New Testament Christians were effective workers because they were aggressive in their work (Acts 8:4): “*Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.*”

### **Sacrifice**

A major attribute in becoming a successful worker is being willing to sacrifice. It is easier sometimes to believe in something and aggressively pursue it as long as it doesn't cost us anything. But the most effective workers are those who willingly sacrifice for the good of the company. So it is with the Lord's work: we can only be truly effective workers when we sacrifice. We must make sure that we can give up worldly connections that would interfere with our work in His kingdom. We are informed in James 4:4, “*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*” Jesus warns in His teaching about the danger of temporal and material things that can interfere with our being effective workers. He tells us that one is an effective worker only if he is willing to sacrifice all and follow Him (Luke 9:57-62; 14:5-24).

The motto of the effective worker in the church, the body of Christ, must be “*... seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*” (Matthew 6:33). Then we can hear our Master say, “*Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of the Lord*” (Matthew 25:21).

## *News N Notes*

### **Remember these in your prayers:**

- **Merle Frey**
- **Audrio Gaudio**, Nancy Morris' granddaughter
- **Blake Headen**, Alberta's husband
- **Blake Swanson**, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- **Terry Smith, Jr.**, dealing with cancer treatments.
- **Virginia Malick**, Peggy Miller's mother
- **Amanda Dowdy & Mabel Fleming**, also **Joyce Coen** taking care of Amanda & Mabel.
- Terry Smith's brother **George**
- **Ed & Marie Roberts**, & Ed's father, **Jim Roberts**.
- **Ila Marshall**, Harold Marshall's mother
- **Cary & Grace Lancaster**

### **Nursing Home:**

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers
- Rhea Henthorn

### **Shut-ins:**

- Ethel Mahan
- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap