

Just Checking In #218 April 2020
Meditations on Malta Acts 27:1 – 28:9
God: Sufficient in the Storm

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https://www.google.com/search?q=Ron+Berrus+youtube&rlz=1C1EJFA_enUS696US696&oq=ron+berrus+youtube&aqs=chrome.69i59j69i57j69i60l2.4424j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Years ago Val and I had the privilege of spending a week on the island of Malta sharing God's word with a wonderful group of missionaries for the week. My morning devotions centered on Acts 27-28, Paul's experiences getting to and on the island of Malta as he was enroute to prison in Rome.

These last several weeks, and for the unforeseeable future, our country, hemisphere and world are in the midst of a storm the degree to which we have never experienced.... Covid 19. It would seem this passage had much to speak to us about as we ride out this storm of pestilence upon us. The circumstances are different, but the reactions and remedy remain unchanged. Let us go into God's word and receive the comfort, confidence and instruction we need this very hour.

TRUTH #1 God's grace is sufficient in the storm

Read Acts 27:1-26 God did not still the storm. God sustained Paul through the storm. In Acts 27:17 the storm was so severe there was danger the entire ship would be destroyed by the fierce waves. The potential of that wooden hulled ship actually coming apart was very real. The text tells us the sailors placed large woven cables all around the hull, winching them every so many feet, to keep the ship from falling apart. The KJV says "they used helps undergirding the ship." The ESV says "they used supports to undergird the ship." This word means "winched cables" holding the ship together in the hurricane. This is the same word translated "help" in Hebrews 4:16. Jesus, our Creator, became man to go through every storm of life we do, to be a sympathetic High Priest and Mediator. He now invites us to come with "confidence", or "boldness", to the Throne of Grace, to find grace to "help"... to "hold us together" in the instant of our need.

Grace is available – we will *find grace* to help Heb. 4:14-16

Grace is on time – grace to help *in time of need*; in the instant of our need

Grace is sufficient – my grace is *sufficient for you* 2 Cor. 12:9

The storm isn't removed, but the soul is sustained. God's grace could eliminate storms, but more often it strengthens the soul to endure the storms. In this way God gets more glory by giving grace to strengthen you... than by letting us float on unchanged.

TRUTH #2 God's grace gives us Confidence in the storm

Read Acts 27:21-26 and answer these two questions.

1) Who are you?

2) Whose are you?

You'll never know who you are until you know Whose you are!

Paul was a **praying** man – God has given you all those who are with you

Paul was a **caring** man – all those who are with you

Paul was a **confident** man – I know it will be as I was told

Paul was a man who **knew himself** because he **knew His God!**

Paul was visited by an angel of God to assure him that not only he but all those on the ship would come safely to shore. In the midst of that insane storm that had lasted 14 days, Paul spoke a word of absolute confidence to encourage his fellow storm-sufferers.

Paul declared...

“take heart”... “do not be afraid”... “take heart”... “it will be exactly as I have been told!”

He knew that God was his owner, his master, his Lord, and his Savior! Paul knew where to place his trust. Paul knew “who” he believed, and therefore knew “what” he believed.

Acts 27:23

The God to Whom I belong! He owns me, possesses me, claims me for His own

I am His by **creation** – He made me – I am not a self-made man! None of us are!

I am His by **redemption** – We are bought with a price 1 Cor 6:19-20 The highest price ever paid

I am His by **regeneration** – John 1:12 We are born again

I am His by **adoption** – Romans 8:15-17 God is our Abba Father

I am not my own – it's not my life, it's not about me!

I am His and He is mine!

The God Whom I serve! We don't serve a religion, or a program, or an organization, but a Person!

I know **WHOM** I have believed.....He is able to keep me! 2 Tim 1:12

That I may know **HIM**...and the power of **HIS** resurrection.... Phil 3:10

To depart and be **WITH CHRIST** with our Savior face to face forever Phil 1:23 Revelation 22:3-4

(Paul didn't say “I'll die and go to heaven” but “I'll depart and be **with CHRIST!**)

PAUL KNEW **WHO HE WAS.** God's servant in the storm!

WHY HE WAS. To glorify God even in the storm!

WHERE HE WAS. On God's mission to proclaim Jesus is Lord in every storm!

Paul was a **praying** man – “God has given you all those who are with you”

Paul was a **caring** man – “all those who are with you”

Paul was a **confident** man – “I know it will be as I was told”

Paul was a man **who knew himself because he knew His God!**

TRUTH #3 God's grace lets us Shine a Light in the storm

Read Acts 27:21-44 The light of faith and hope shines brightest in the storms of life. Matt 5:12

The reason Paul has such a powerful witness was because he was with them in the storm. Influence is transmitted through personal contact! He wasn't spared from the storm. He went through the storm and they could see him day and day trusting his Savior. Paul was present, constant and consistent!

Now that's a light in the storm!

Let me repeat it: "Paul's witness was effective because he was **in the storm with them!**"

Notice these four truths in verses 27:24-44

#1 vs 24 Paul's prayers brought life – "God has given to you all who sail with you...." It is obvious that Paul prayed for them for the angel said "God has granted you.." Paul asked for everyone to be rescued from death, that they might have another opportunity to be saved. God said "Yes" to Paul's prayer.

#2 vs 30-32 Paul's counsel brought change – they started listening, finally! At first, the soldiers listened to the boat's owner and pilot. But now, they are listening to Paul... not because Paul was an experienced sailor.... he wasn't. Not because Paul was a wealthy ship owner... he wasn't. But because Paul was the servant of the One True God and his witness was bright and clear.

#3 vs 31-38 Paul's example brought hope – everyone followed his lead and ate food together and prepared for the landing.

#4 vs 42-44 Paul's counsel brought safety – all the fellow prisoners were spared because the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life. He put his life on the line to spare Paul. You can see the power of Paul's bright witness and its far reaching effects. So our witness shines brightest when the storms are darkest.

So in the midst of this storm-tossed season,
let's **rest** more fully upon our God,
trust more fully upon His promises,
hope more fully upon His sovereignty,
pray more fully for His glory,
and **witness** more clearly of His glorious grace!

Make It Personal:

- 1) Memorize two verses – if you want a suggestion... Hebrews 4:15-16
- 2) Make a prayer list of those who need encouragement and hope in this storm and reach out to them through a card, email, letter, or text.
- 3) Use this time to read the Bible more in-depth. Pick a book and read a chapter 3 times each day and work your way through it slowly, underlining key words and thanking God for what He's showing you.
- 4) Keep a list of truths you want to remember after the storm is over.

Further Study: Read the "storm" passages in the gospels and learn more about Jesus in the storms. Matthew 14 Mark 4 Mark 6 Luke 8 John 6

**Remember, you are very special to us and we thank God for you.
Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4**

Ron & Val

**Seeing the Invisible, Embracing the Unapproachable,
Declaring the Unexplainable, Changed by the Immutable,
Running after the Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,
Spending our time on eternity,
Owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY.**

**BECAUSE I LIVE,
YOU WILL LIVE ALSO.**

John 14:19

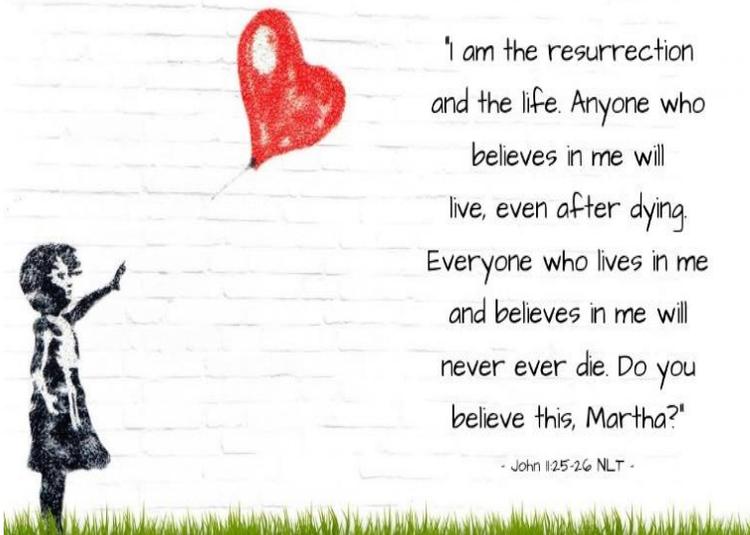
But as for me, I know
that my Redeemer
lives, and He will stand
upon the earth at last.
And after my body has
decayed, yet in my
body I will see God!

(Job 19:25-26 NLT)



I am the resurrection
and the life. Anyone who
believes in me will
live, even after dying.
Everyone who lives in me
and believes in me will
never ever die. Do you
believe this, Martha?

- John 11:25-26 NLT -



He said to them, "Was it
not necessary that the
Christ should suffer
these things and enter
into his glory?" And
beginning with Moses
and all the Prophets, he
interpreted to them in all
the Scriptures the things
concerning himself...



~ The Gospel of Luke 24:26-27

The Resurrection of Jesus and the Resurrection of You and Me, Too!

Old Testament Teaches It

Job 19:25-26 Jesus' and Our Resurrection

Psalms 16:8-11 Jesus' Resurrection

Psalms 22:1-21a Jesus' Death

Psalms 22:21b-31 Jesus' Resurrection

Isaiah 53:1-10a Jesus' Death

Isaiah 53:10b-12 Jesus; Resurrection

Zechariah 12:10 Jesus' Resurrection

Psalms 71:20 Isaiah 26:19

New Testament Teaches It

Matt 12:40 Mark 8:31 Mark 9:31 Luke 9:22

Acts 2:24-32 Acts 3:15

Matthew 28 Mark 16 Luke 24 John 21

Romans 6:8-11; 8:34

1 Corinthians 15

Ephesians 1:19-20

Philippians 2:5-11

Revelation 1:18; 20:11-15