

I. GET ONBOARD

- A. This is the FOURTH missionary journey of the Apostle Paul
1. ACTS 23:11 – “And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”
    - a. Through capture, through death threats, through tumult.
    - b. Through prison, through false allegations, through trial.
    - c. And sometimes through the storm.
  2. But GOD is still on the throne! He still acts in the lives of His children.
  3. We sing songs about His faithfulness.
    - a. *Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?  
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,  
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?  
We have an anchor that keeps the soul,  
Stedfast and sure while the billows roll,  
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,  
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.*
    - b. It is the SAME SAVIOR who quieted the storms during His earthly ministry that is able to KEEP His own when the billows roll!
    - c. Sometimes He calms the storm around us.
      - i. Sometimes He keeps us safe in the storm.
      - ii. We have no need to fear.
      - iii. But not everyone is one of His children.
- B. Yes, He is God. Yes, He is CREATOR. But not every person is His child!
1. Jesus told the Pharisees, “JOHN 8:44 – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
    - a. Even Jesus said that not ALL are God’s Children
    - b. You cannot be in God’s family unless you’ve been REDEEMED.
    - c. Unless you’ve been ADOPTED out of the DEVIL’S family
  2. People don’t like to hear that. They don’t want to believe that,
  3. But it’s true!
- C. Here’s a Bible Example: Noah
1. Turn to GEN. 6:5-8 – ONLY NOAH was found righteous in the eyes of God.
  2. HEB. 11:7 – “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the

which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

- a. 120 years until the flood, 75 or 50 years of building the Ark.
  - b. Preaching to the people around him.
  - c. Testifying what God would do by building.
  - d. 2 PETER 2:5 – “And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;”
  - e. And yet all people but the 8 souls in the Ark were destroyed!
3. Were they not all God’s creation?
- a. Can’t you see them as the rain begins to fall?
  - b. But the time was up? God had shut the door!
  - c. This Ark is a picture of Salvation.
  - d. This ship in Acts can also picture one of the Lord’s Churches
- D. Church Membership is the most protected place on Earth.
1. The founder of Facebook (Mark Zuckerberg) is building a bunker.
    - a. Apparently deep under his compound in Hawaii
    - b. He has built a spacious and well-stocked doomsday shelter.
    - c. Maybe he has never heard of a VOLCANO...
  2. Where on earth could you build a shelter that would keep God away?
  3. REV. 6:16 – “And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:”
  4. Get on board the ship!

## II. STAY ONBOARD

- A. Once you have been Saved, unite officially with one of the Lord’s Churches
1. Church membership does not save – CANNOT save! Only the Blood Saves
    - a. It isn’t being immersed in the baptismal waters,
    - b. But being COVERED by the Blood of the Spotless Lamb of God
  2. Get on board and STAY on board!
  3. Look at what happened, despite the Storm:
    - a. Vs. 15 – They let the WIND drive them – Picture of the Holy Ghost
    - b. Vs. 16 – They had MUCH work to do – EVERYONE jumped in!
    - c. Vs. 17 – They used what helps they had, stayed out of the sands!
    - d. Vs. 18 – They worked together (many hands make light work)
    - e. Vs. 19 – They ALL worked, even Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus
    - f. Vs. 20 – They experienced ups and downs TOGETHER!
    - g. Vs. 33 – They fasted together!
  4. They threw out ANCHORS together:
    - a. We have anchors as well – FAITH / HOPE / LOVE / PATIENCE
    - b. Watching & WAITING for Christ’s soon return (keeps us grounded)
    - c. We have to also throw out all distractions and heavy burdens!

- B. Paul had warned them (listen to the Word of God, listen to the Preacher)
  - 1. He PLEADS for them to stay in the place of safety (vs. 31)
  - 2. He PROMISES survival for them if they stay put (vs. 32)
  - 3. He PRAISES God for their food and their health (vs. 36)
  - 4. Look at what praising God does (vs. 20 and vs. 36)
- C. Think about Noah – would he have jumped off the Ark?
  - 1. Even if he COULD have gotten out, WOULD he have?
    - a. “Yes, the world-wide flood looks so attractive.”
    - b. “Seems like a great time to swimming! Grab your trunks!”
    - c. Why would you ever leave Salvation? Even if you could?
  - 2. Why would you ever leave the Ship when God says your safety is there?
  - 3. Why would you ever leave a church and never go back?
    - a. There are valid reasons to leave a church.
    - b. But no valid reasons to live WITHOUT a church!
    - c. Stay ONBOARD!

### III. FLOATING ON BOARDS

- A. If you don't stay onboard, you might find yourself FLOATING on Boards! (vs. 44)
  - 1. So many people today believe they can get by without a church.
  - 2. They jump overboard and cast themselves on the mercy of the sea.
  - 3. Maybe they cling to a big of a broken ship, but there's no safety there.
    - a. One big wave can lead to destruction,
    - b. And none of the orders given to churches can be accomplished.
    - c. No world-wide missions, no outreach, no growth for God.
- B. Sometimes, when people jump ship, they are dashed against the rocks! (vs. 29)
  - 1. The rocks are out there and it's a very real danger.
    - a. Bad doctrine, bad teaching, and sometimes bad TEACHERS!
    - b. Much has come out about churches covering up sin and crimes.
    - c. Sin will not be covered here – the POLICE will be called!
  - 2. But because of hurt and sin, some would rather trust the waves,
    - a. Then risk getting aboard another ship – how sad that is!
    - b. And how needless. We know that people are sinners.
    - c. We know that there is no “perfect” church, but that's no excuse.
    - d. JOHN 14:15 – “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
  - 3. Don't cling to something broken (something that hurts)
  - 4. Get onboard a ship that's RIGHT, UNBROKEN, and SEAWORTHY!

### IV. FAITH ON BIBLE

- A. Put your faith on the Word of God, not on men.
  - 1. The arm of flesh will fail you. People will fail you. God will NEVER fail you.
  - 2. Paul's ship and company got safely to shore (everyone!)
  - 3. Trust God, put your faith on HIM!

- B. If you aren't Saved, remember Noah. There was only ONE Ark that God saved.
  - 1. There were probably many boats before the flood...
  - 2. And many came afterward – but only ONE ARK SAVED BY GOD!
  - 3. And there is only one way of Salvation: ACTS 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
- C. Be Saved Today! Get onboard the ARK!