

You Are Not Alone

by Dan Jenkins

Life is often so frustrating that we can easily forget the truth that the child of God is never alone. The last two chapters of the book of Acts so vividly illustrate this. Imagine that you are Paul on his way to Rome to be tried before Nero Caesar. Look at the contrast of the faith he had and how so many would view all that was happening if they had been Paul.

Paul was not alone on the ship. I am not referring to those Christians who were traveling with him (even though they provided so much of the comfort God provides for His children), but about God's providential presence in these trying days of Paul's life.

It would have been so easy for Paul to question God in what was happening. The mockery of the trials he had endured kept him a prisoner in Judah. As far as Roman laws were concerned, the Roman governor, Festus, admitted there were no charges to be brought against Paul (Acts 25:25-26), and King Agrippa said, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains" (Acts 26:31). Yet, here he was headed to appear before vile Nero.

Look at what was happening on board the ship. Paul could have been put in the charge of any Roman centurion, but he was assigned to the care of Julius. It should not surprise us that Paul found favor in the eyes of the centurion. Paul was not alone on the ship!

Though a prisoner, he was given "shore leave" to be with the brethren at Sidon. Luke said, "Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care" (Acts 27:3).

Paul was not alone during the storm. On this voyage to Rome, a violent storm arose and "...all hope that we would be saved was finally given up" (Acts 27:20). Life is so distressing, but at such times, we must remember that Christians are never alone. In the darkness of night, an angel of the Lord appeared to Paul with the message of hope. What we may overlook is that the angel had been with Paul all the time he was on the ship (Heb. 1:13-14). We are never alone.

Paul was not alone when shipwrecked. It should not surprise us that "...the natives showed us unusual kindness...and made us all welcome" (Acts 28:2). It might be worth considering if the presence of God's children might have something to do with this special treatment. Christians are never alone!

Now, step back from looking at this brief period of Paul's life and think about God's presence in your life. God does not keep us from being wronged by others or from "shipwrecks" in our lives. His providence works in another way. His plan involves this eternal truth—you are never alone!

Questioning Salvation

by Kevin Cauley

In preparation to teach our high school class about the beliefs of the various denominational bodies, I have noticed one common and consistent practice among them. While most denominations varies widely in their unique doctrines, when it comes to the plan of salvation they mostly agree on the doctrine of faith only. Typically associated with this teaching is a statement regarding their acceptance of other denominational bodies as part of the church as a whole. They will then state that they will gladly accept into their membership those from other denominations. This statement is usually accompanied with the idea that the denomination doesn't question the salvation of those in other denominations. So, in this study we want to answer the question, "Does the Bible teach that we ought to question our salvation and the salvation of others?"

It should be noted that Jesus' ministry involved questioning the salvation of others. Jesus' primary work was to teach and preach the gospel to the house of Israel (Matthew 15:24). These were God's covenant people, yet Jesus called them "lost sheep." Because their salvation was in jeopardy, Jesus appropriately told them to "repent or perish" (Luke 13:3, 5). In fact, upon multiple occasions Jesus called for their repentance (Matthew 4:17, 9:13, 11:20-21, Luke 15:7,10) and even declared to them that they would be lost if they did not (Luke 10:12-14). Remember, these were Jesus' fellow Jews, and yet, He questioned their salvation.

The apostles also questioned the salvation of those who were saved. Consider the example of Simon the Sorcerer. In Acts 8:13 we have this statement: "Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done." Simon was a believer; Simon was baptized. According to Mark 16:16, Simon was saved. However, not long after this Peter questioned Simon's salvation when Simon sought to purchase the ability to bestow miracles. Peter said to Simon, "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:21-23). Simon was a Christian, yet his salvation was questioned.

Consider also the frequent words of warning that Paul gives regarding over confidence toward salvation. 1 Corinthians 10:12 states "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 2 Corinthians 13:5 says "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" And there were some that became reprobate to the faith. Consider Paul's words to Timothy regarding Hymenaeus and Alexander. He said that they had put away a good conscience and made shipwreck of the faith (1 Timothy 1:19-20). Yes, he questioned their salvation!

Moreover, there are also some who think they are saved when they haven't been. We must question the "salvation" of these as well. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Here are some who thought they were saved when they were not; would it not have been better for them to have had someone question their "salvation?" Wouldn't someone who isn't really saved be eternally grateful if we will simply question whether or not they are saved to ensure that they are doing the will of the Father? I would think they would.

I'm sure that those in the denominational world who fail to question the salvation of others think that they are doing them a great service. However, they are actually doing them great harm. A true Christian friend will encourage someone to examine their life by comparing it to the teaching that is found in the Bible and also to make correction where correction needs to be made. Questioning someone's salvation isn't an act of betrayal, it's an act of love; it's an act that just may lift someone out of hell and into heaven (Galatians 6:1). Are you sure you're saved?

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org

House to House, Heart to Heart

In Search of the Lord's Way

Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies

The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv

WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin

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Prayer List

Beverly Heathcote's dad, Ed Nevel has been diagnosed with lung cancer, and has surgery scheduled for Monday at Navarro Hospital.

Raz Moore passed away Wednesday in Waco, Tx. His visitation will be held at Corley Funeral Home on Monday at 10:00am, and his service will immediately follow at 11:00am.

Wanda Horner has been moved to Twilight Nursing Home room 203 to begin rehab.

Beverly Heim is scheduled for skin surgery on Nov. 10 at Methodist Medical Center.

Cooper Webster has mouth surgery scheduled Dec. 2 at Children's Hospital.

Continue to Remember: Julie Dilbeck, Meagan Gould, Vera White, Amy Parrish, Ruth Moore, Gayle Garner, Carolyn Milton, Paul Loosier, Tim & Beverly Cooke, Adolph Reamy, Sabrina Zamzow, & Gabrielle

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

Announcements

Lads 2 Leaders practice for Speech and Oral Bible Reading will be at 4.30pm TODAY!

Open Door for Youth Group will be Thurs. this week.

Baby Shower for April Myers on Nov. 13 following evening worship service. Please mark that date and join us to help prepare for the arrival of Titus Ray! *April is registered at: Amazon, Walmart, Target, The Children's Shop, and Babies r Us for shower gifts.*

Jr. High and High School will each have a **devo** on Sunday, Nov. 20, immediately following the morning service, so they will eat lunch here together.

To all my brothers and sisters in Christ, I must begin with thanks to God for allowing me to be a part of His church, and thanks to all who have welcomed my children with open arms. Also, for all the help I have received in such a short time. It fills my heart with joy and admiration to be called your family. I will strive to further myself in the eyes of God to be the person that would make Christ proud as well as my brothers and sisters in Him. My appreciation and prayers are with you all. **Randy Heim**

To my Westhill family, Thank you for the love and support you've given us while I've been recovering from my MS treatments. Please pray that my health will improve. We are blessed and I love you all! **Julie Dilbeck** Thanks!

Plan to spend **Thanksgiving Day** with your Westhill family (Nov 24 at noon in the Outreach Center). Turkey, ham, dressing and gravy will be provided, but sides and desserts are welcomed. Come alone, or bring your entire family! Please sign up the names and number of those attending.

Birthdays This Week

- November 6 - Robyn Saunders
- November 8 - Robby Thomas
- November 9 - Gene McDougald
- November 10 - Buck Murphy
- November 11 - Aubrey Parrish
- November 12- Glynn Saunders

Next Week's Adult Class

"The Life of the Apostle Paul"

Records for October 30, 2016	
Bible Class	179
AM Worship.....	231
PM Worship.....	122
Wednesday	134
Contribution	\$6,896.50

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Tyler Baumgartner
Opening Prayer	David Baumgartner
Communion Leader	Percell Milton
Communion Servers	
Scott Barham	James Olsen
Lynn Webster	Robby Thomas
Mike Wylie	Kyle Slaughter
Greg Olsen	Buck Murphy
Ricky Jennings	Wade Hall
David Dilbeck	Thomas Saunders
Tanner Bearden	
Closing Prayer	Scott Barham
Nursery	Sharon Mahoney and Emily Roughton
PM Song Leader	Joshua Haden
PM Opening Prayer	Dan Gibson
PM Closing Prayer	Lynn Webster
Wed. Song Leader	Jimmy Horn
Wed. Devotional	Don Ivy
November Contact Elder	Paul Slaughter