

Christian Courier

A Church of Christ Publication

December 2024
Volume 59, Issue 12

SURVIVING A SHIPWRECK

Part 1 of 3 — Bro. Terry Warford

In 2 Corinthians 11 the apostle Paul was answering those who gloried in the flesh. He answered by listing some of what he endured for the Lord, and in verse 25 said: "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;".

A shipwreck would be very scary, with the prospect of losing cargo, damage to the ship, injury, and in the worst cases loss of life. And tragically throughout human history many lives have been lost to the sea. Paul was not one. Though he endured 3 shipwrecks he survived 3 shipwrecks.

Paul also warned us that our faith can grow weak and be "shipwrecked" when we do what our conscience warns us is wrong, or fail to do what it encourages is right. 1 Timothy 1:19. "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:".

Jesus issued a similar warning in Matthew 24:12. "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

We face storms as we sail through this life; of physical, emotional, or spiritual types. Any can wreck our faith if we allow it. But we can also survive any with our faith and love intact despite loss if we will cling to God and the principles we find in His Word.

We find one of Paul's shipwrecks recorded in the 27th chapter of Acts. There are certain things we find in the story that can aid us when life threatens to destroy our faith. The purpose of this article is to explore some of these principles that can aid us as we face the storms of our lives.

Some storms we face are because of our own actions, some are unavoidable, and sometimes we put ourselves in unavoidable storms because of our choices. We see this in the first part of the chapter. In verses 1-9 Paul – already a prisoner having appealed his case to Caesar – and his party were on three separate ships trying to get to Rome. The winds and storms of the Mediterranean constantly pushed them away from their intended destination.

Paul warned them not to go on the next part of their journey, Acts 27:9-10. "Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives." But being a prisoner, the decision was not his, and his advice was not followed, leading to disaster, verses 11-15. "Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west. And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive." They were caught in a storm – not by the choice of Paul and his companions, but because of the choices of those in charge of them.

(continued...)

Notes & Letters

Hello!

The congregation at Broken Bow would like to express our sincere thanks to all who attended our fall meeting in November of this year. We had an excellent turnout and heard some wonderful, uplifting lessons given by Bro. Robert Fuson of Stilwell, OK. One of our younger little girls told Bro. Robert that "she really liked his lessons, because he explained things in a way she could understand." What a huge complement! Bro. Robert's three thought-provoking lessons gave both young and old many things to consider. A few rounds of Train were also played, along with a hayride, cornhole, meals and great fellowship. It was truly a pleasure to gather with our Christian brothers and sisters, both old friends and new.

There is something to be said for gathering with the church each week. We draw strength from each other in so many ways. Seeing those we love lifts our spirits, keeps us strong, and gives us the perseverance to continue our daily Christian walk. In the past few weeks, we have had several members not feeling well. Our littles have been under the weather lately as well too and Tessa received 7 stitches near her eye after a fall at school but is healing nicely. Our prayer has been for health restored, and a return to worship for all.

Prayers are needed for Bro. James and Sis. Linda Camp's daughter (Vickie Perrin), granddaughter (Morgan McIntosh), and grandson (Rylan). After completing cancer treatments, Vickie recently underwent a very serious 7-hour surgery. The surgery went well, but the recovery will take time. She is experiencing a great deal of pain and could use our continued prayers. The pathologist's report came back with great news for Vickie! No cancer in the tissues taken during surgery! What a huge blessing for Vickie and family! Please continue to keep this family in your prayers.

Morgan recently began several weeks of cancer treatment and Rylan continues to suffer from

Published by the Pleasant View Church of Christ in Stilwell, OK
Send correspondence to:
The Christian Courier
83985 S. 4737 Rd., Stilwell, OK 74960
Email: ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com
Web: 1CupHistory.church —and— ChurchOfChristOneCup.org

Carney Complex Syndrome, a condition in which tumors grow on nerve endings. He will need surgery to remove existing tumors. Ellen Cash, a long-time friend, was also diagnosed with cancer and could use prayers. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16

One hundred seventy bags were assembled for area nursing homes in the community Wednesday night. These bags contained a calendar, apples, oranges, pens, writing tablets, lotion, etc. for residents. We also have a few extra bags to deliver to those in the neighborhood around the church building. Those attending Wednesday night made a large task manageable and fun. It is a blessing to work together with such giving Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Work has been underway on the new building's remodel. Electrical and plumbing have been established and new walls built. Plans are to have the walls spray foamed soon and to begin on completing the ceiling. There is still plenty to do, but we are seeing progress and very excited to use the finished product to further the Gospel of Christ.

If you are in the Broken Bow, OK area, please join us for Sunday worship at 10:30 am and/or Wednesday Bible study at 6:30 pm. Our address is 508 North Costilow or for more information contact Casey at (580)236-2899. All are welcome!

In Christ's Love
The Broken Bow Congregation

(Pictures on back page...)

Thank you so much for the copies of Ellis's Study of Revelation. We will find these very useful in our study of Revelation with the folks at Brookdale Assisted Living. It is also an opportunity to improve our own understanding of this book in the Bible.

Thank you again. Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Don & Chris Hammett



Join us for family fun and fellowship! There will be church services, bible studies, singings, field trips, a fundraising auction and more!





Milk of the Word

Matthew

This month we will be studying about the Apostle Matthew. It is believed that Matthew wrote the book of Matthew. It is thought by some that he was only one of four writers. However, Matthew's Gospel, along with the Gospels of Luke, John, and Mark, is an inspired—and thus true—history of the life of Christ. The Gospel of Matthew is the longest of the four.



Before Matthew became an apostle of Christ, he was a tax collector or "publican" in the town of Capernaum (Matthew 9:9; 10:3). Matthew is also called Levi, the son of Alphaeus, by Luke and Mark (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27). Although Luke and Mark do not come out and say, "Levi and Matthew are the same person," we believe the names refer to the same people because of context. Matthew's account of his call matches exactly the accounts of Levi's call in Luke and Mark, both in terms of language and chronological placement. Also, it is not uncommon for a person to be given a different name after an encounter with God. Abram became Abraham, Jacob became Israel, Simon became Peter, and Saul became Paul. It is likely that Matthew (meaning "gift of God") was the name Jesus gave to Levi after his conversion. But, that is not found in the scriptures.

Tax collectors (publicans) were hated by their own people because they worked for the Roman government and collected taxes from their own people. Not only did they collect taxes for the Romans but they would collect even more for themselves. (Luke 19:8). It is likely that Matthew was well-off, since Luke says that Levi hosted "a great banquet for Jesus" with "a large crowd" in attendance (Luke 5:29).

Tax collectors (publicans) such as Matthew were seen as very sinful people, so sinful that even spending time with them could immediately ruin a good person's reputation (Matthew 9:10–11). When Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house,

with many other tax collectors and sinners present, the Pharisees questioned the disciples about Jesus' choice of companions. Jesus' response is one of the clearest explanations of God's heart and His gospel to man: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. . . . I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:12–13). Jesus came to save not the "good," self-righteous people, but those who knew they were not good—the people who admitted freely that they needed salvation (Matthew 5:3).

When called by Jesus, Matthew immediately left his tax collection booth and followed the Lord (Matthew 9:9). He left behind the source of his riches; he left his position of security and comfort for traveling, hardship, and eventual martyrdom; he left his old life for a new life with Jesus.

Presented by the
Robert Fuson Family



Thought for the Month

When we become hungry, angry, lonely, tired, (and/or even ill,) our spiritual armor may become compromised and we may begin to lose our connection with God. This creates a perfect environment for the seeds of doubt, mistrust, boredom, lethargy, complacency, and a host of other negative emotional states to take root, jeopardizing our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being.

We are encouraged by Gods Holy Word to maintain these areas of our lives. **Physical:** 1 Cor. 6:19-20; **Mental:** Phil. 4:8; **Emotional:** Phil. 4:6-7 & Eph. 4:26, and **Spiritual:** Matt. 6:33 & Rom. 12:2.

His Word provides tools to help us with these troubling times: Ps. 46:1, Phil. 4:6-7, & James 4:7 are but a few. One of Jesus's own accounts of prayer and surrender to God's will can be found in Matt. 26:39, "...***O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.***"

So what can we do? First we pray: Phil. 4:6-7. We can also recognize and admit our own wrong-doing: James 5:16. We can also reach out to others: Gal. 6:2. If we find we are reluctant, we may also pray for willingness.

The great Word of God is full of encouragement and useful tools to aid us in this endeavor. And with todays technologies, it is easier than ever to search for and find them. The only thing standing in our way is ourselves.

Love & blessings
Bro. Jesse Warford

Guess Who???

The answer is below the Bulletin Board



Who is this handsome young fella???

NEWS FROM ABROAD

Kindly accept our Christmas greetings. We thank the Lord the opportunity He Has given us to serve in His Kingdom – the Church. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or sleep, we should live together with Him" (1 Thess. 5: 8-10).


John Kombo

While many people everywhere in the world will tomorrow celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ. We, who are saved after obeying the gospel will celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ in our lives. As it is written "Or do you not know that as many of us as were immersed into Christ Jesus were immersed into His death?" Therefore, we are buried with Him through immersion into death, that just as Christ was raised up from the dead through the glory of the Father, even we also might walk in newness of life. Romans 6: 3-4).

We have had opportunities to work during this year that is almost coming to an end. Have been invited to teach and preach to, homes, denominations and to our member congregations within Nakuru and beyond. Attached are some pictures taken during our cell group weekly meetings and the youths who have joined our church and committed into serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Brother in Christ, John Kombo
Restoration Church of Christ
Barut - Kenya.

(pictures on pg. 10)

Fundraiser for Shiloh Boling

Scan this QR Code with your phone camera to see how you can help with his medical expenses while he recovers from cancer surgery and treatments.

Donations and requests for information may be sent to:

Church of Christ
Africa Mission
3814 64th Drive
Lubbock, TX 79413

Brothers and Sisters,

Much greetings from the beloved Brothers and Sisters in Tanzania E. Africa. We thank God for the life he has been giving us each day; this shows love that he has for us.

I would like to inform you about the mission work in Tanzania. Always Satan is not happy when he see people work for God; he brings obstacles whenever we do God's will but he will not win. God's work is the first priority in our life and we must live and abide in it.



Brother Deusi and I departed here on December 04 to Dar for the church paper and orphanage registration, we reached there on the following day. We rested for one day and the following day we went at the registrar's office but they did not let us present what we had because it was not our turn. This month is when churches and institutions present their documents. The government want to see and know how these churches and institutions spend their funds. And so we went back to the hotel and on December 10th, we went back and presented our documents. There was presentation on how the funds are spent. This so because they want to be aware that each church even the denominations are legal in the country. It took us two days to finish.

We then turned to the Commissioner for Social welfare in Tanzania; who is responsible in registering Orphanages. This took us five days to finish. After all these we were able to comeback home on December 16th. We saw God working with us as he opens the ways and making it easier at each office we visited. it was possible because of prayers.

Before leaving for Dar, we did evangelism and three souls decided to repent and was baptized into Christ. Brother Vincent, Sandra, and Joyce were immersed for remission of their sins. (pictured below)

Thank you for your support and prayers that makes this possible.

Pray for us as we do the same to you. We need God's protection as work in his kingdom. I'm asking prayers for my daughter Wilkister Alex she has been sick for a week now. Happy New Year to you all.

May God bless you.
Your brother in Christ,
Sadat.

(pictures on next page)

Kenya Mission






Tanzania Mission






Voices from the Past

ONE BY ONE

One by one dear ones are going
from our midst, we see not where;
One by one, Death's stream still flowing
Does our loved ones onward bear

One by one, Death's hand, still knocking
Opens the door of our abode
One by one, our hearts' most breaking,
Are they borne upward to their Lord

One by one God calls them ever
From this land of sin and gloom.
One by one, o'er there they gather
Where no sorrows ever come.

One by one how much we miss them
But this thought our spirit cheers;
Over yonder we may greet them
Where God will wipe away all tears.

One by one, we too will answer
to the summons from on high
One by one may we meet in heaven
Where we'll never say, Good-bye.

One by one, we'll meet our loved ones
Over on the other shore
Then we'll clasp their hands rejoicing
And ring God's praise forevermore.

Dedicated to the memory of Sister Lulu and her son Walter.

July 9th, 1908 – G. Earl McCay

Lord
of the Sabbath

Hall L. Calhoun, Born 1863

One needs to realize that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth; that all laws and principles in this world and everywhere else, whether found in nature, providence, or faith, were made by him. Principles are eternal and cannot be changed, any more than God can; and he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. But precepts are the different embodiments of principles and are called "laws." These precepts, or laws, may be changed any time the Maker of them desires to do so, for he is the Maker of them and has absolute authority over them. This all human beings ought to know.

Men cannot and must not change them nor disobey them. Even their Maker, Jesus, never violated any principle. But Jesus can change the precepts at any time he pleases. Men often fail to understand the difference between principles and the laws embodying them. Men often fail to see the power of Jesus to change laws, but not principles. Of course, every law given to man by the Lord must be obeyed till it is changed by the Lord himself.

Also all men should be sure to understand the laws; but many do not understand them, and often they add to them their own precepts and call upon other men to obey their precepts, as if these precepts were God-given. So it was with the Sabbath law. The Jews added many things to it and misunderstood its meaning on many points. They condemned even Jesus and his apostles for violating their additions to and misunderstandings of it.

The Sabbath law did not condemn works of necessity, mercy, or religion. There was no sin in the act of the disciples in eating the wheat which they plucked on the Sabbath day. Laws of necessity and mercy and religion supersede or take precedence over, laws of sacrifice or ritual, as David's eating the showbread and the priests' work on the Sabbath show; and Jesus calls upon the critics to recognize himself, the Son of man, as lord of the Sabbath, who knew its exact meaning, as they did not, as his statement clearly shows. "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice." If ye had understood this, "ye would not have condemned the guiltless."

Some good people today fail to understand that Jesus may abolish the Sabbath and establish the Lord's day without violating any principle of right and wrong; for he is Lord of the Sabbath—i.e., he made it, and he could change it at his will.

Studying Revelation

A look at Revelation 2:3-5

Bro. Paul Warford

Rev 2:3 ***And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.***

And hast borne

Here Christ was giving them praise for their endurance. They had been great workers in the Kingdom and had done many wonderful works.

and hast patience

Here is the second time that Christ mentions their patience. This is quite remarkable because without patience a church cannot grow. It is one of the greatest things a person can own and use when converting someone to Christ.

and for my name's sake hast laboured

As with patience, their Labor is once again mentioned. Two verses in a row he praises them for all they did.

and hast not fainted.

Now he praises them because they continued in his doctrine and worship. They haven't quit following him, they haven't let the evil one steal their seeds.

Rev 2:4 ***Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.***

Now it turns from praise to explaining what their faults are. Although they "were" great workers in the Kingdom, they seem to have lost their zeal. Christ tells them that this was not making him happy.

Rev 2:5 ***Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.***

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works

Christ just spent two verses explaining what they were doing right, so now he tells them what they "were" doing, all the good works along with the zeal, was what made him happy. They need to "remember" the original fire

they had when they first fell in love with Christ.

I want you to think how a man and woman just get married. The couple decides that the man makes enough money that he alone should work and the wife should stay home and tend to the house which is a good thing. All of a sudden he's waking up to breakfast, to the smell of fresh bacon in the skillet because her love for him has given her the love of duty to take care of him. He comes home from work all of his laundry is done folded neatly put away hung up where it goes, the house is clean maybe not spotless but good and clean easily livable and supper will be done in just a few minutes. After supper he sits down to watch the news for the day, the weather reports, shows that entertain him or read his Bible and she cleans the kitchen up and comes and spends the rest of her evening with him.

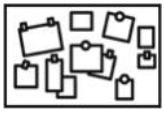
Then about a year and a half two years later he comes home one day and the home is really not as clean as it once was. He thinks “well it's no big deal she just got busy today doing other things and it's OK”. Then a month or two later he doesn't wake up to breakfast he has to run by McDonald's and get a biscuit on his way to work. Then he notices that his clothes are very wrinkly in his drawers or maybe still dirty from where they were worn previously.

You see the first love is gone. The new exciting fire burning love that they shared is dwindling down. Not that they don't love each other, far far from it, but the love that comes from zeal and the desire of wanting to take care of this person that you love, has dwindled down.

Christ wants us to have that hot burning zealous love for him, a fire that cannot be quenched. He always wants the love between him and us to be fresh and new.

or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

The first thing I want you to know is that Christ is NOT threating this church. Out of genuine LOVE he is explaining to them what will happen because of “cause and effect” if they don’t. He is the husband of the church, the bride. No husband wants to see any kind of hurt come to his bride. So in love he tells her how not to get hurt. If your spouse enjoyed standing in the road would you not in love explain to them that would be dangerous?



Bulletin Board

Those in need of our prayers

Jon Rawlins	Ottawa, Canada	Needs heart transplant
John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Diabetes, heart issues
Agrippina Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Severe back problems
Linda Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Vicki Camp Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer treatments / Surgery
Rylan Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Carney Complex - nerve tumors
Morgan McIntosh	Broken Bow, OK	Beginning cancer treatments
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Fighting cancer
Billy Martin	Citrus City, AZ	Fighting cancer
Pauline Holloway	Gleed, WA	Uterine & cervical cancer
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, 2 angioplasties
Mariela Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, thyroid issues
Jessica Chastain	Stilwell, OK	Health issues
Retha Morris	Stilwell, OK	Battling Parkinson's
Darletta Spencer	Stilwell, OK	Cancer
Bruce Cumming	Yuma, AZ	Heart Issues
Fred Cummings	Yuma, AZ	Congestive heart failure
Dennis Davis	Yuma, AZ	Back & leg issues - Kidney trouble
Kathy Lamb	Gleed, WA	Cancer surgery

Gospel Meetings

Yuma Gospel Meeting	Yuma, AZ	March 9-16, 2025	Guest Speakers
Family Camp Meeting	Cedaredge, CO	July 12-20, 2025	Guest Speakers

We have acquired Bro. Ellis Foresman's Study of Revelation and have reproduced it in book form. Besides the full sized Large Print original, we now print and mail smaller Booklet Sized editions. Please let us know if you'd like one. We will be happy to mail you one! Both editions are also on https://1CupHistory.Church as PDF's and Word Doc's!

ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com

Guess Who??? Answer: Jerry McCay





Broken Bow, OK
Weekend Meeting: Nov 8-10, 2024 &
Gift Bag Making for Nursing Home Donations









