

**"Paul's Defense of his Apostleship"**

**Part 8**

**2 Corinthians 11**

**Introduction:** It has been calculated that in Paul's missionary journeys he traveled more than 12,000 miles. Many of those miles were traveled on foot and many were traveled by ship/boat. It is believed that 6,770 miles were traveled by ship/boat.

We have been looking at the boasting of Paul in which he boasted about his sufferings as an Apostle. Last week in our study we ended with 2 Corinthians 11:27. Before we move forward tonight I want to back up and look at 11:26 again to give to you a little more information concerning Paul's suffering and what he went through to spread the Gospel.

**I. The Sufferings of Paul**

**Part 3**

**Notice 2 Corinthians 11:26**

Last week we looked at the meaning of the word "peril". It means "dangers". Paul faced dangers every single day of his life. The heading for this verse is found at the beginning. Paul tells us he was in "Journeys Often". That is the heading for the verse and what is listed under this heading Paul encountered while he was traveling. There are 3 dangers listed in this verse that can be connected and they are:

1. In perils of water.
2. In perils of robbers.
3. In perils in the sea.

We touched on Paul's sea travels briefly last week but I want to revisit the thought before we go on tonight. These 3 dangers most likely were encountered as Paul traveled by ship. To travel by ship in Paul's day was very dangerous. They had no GPS device for navigation. They would often follow the coast line from port to port. They had no way to foresee the sudden storms which would come upon them. Let me show you one such experience which Paul had in Acts 27.

**Acts 27:6-20, 27-43**

<sup>6</sup> And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.

<sup>7</sup> And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;

<sup>8</sup> And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup> Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them,

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete.

<sup>14</sup> But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

<sup>15</sup> And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.

<sup>16</sup> And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

<sup>17</sup> Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.

<sup>18</sup> And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

<sup>19</sup> And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

<sup>20</sup> And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

<sup>27</sup> But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

- <sup>28</sup> And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.
- <sup>29</sup> Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.
- <sup>30</sup> And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,
- <sup>31</sup> Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.
- <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.
- <sup>33</sup> And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.
- <sup>34</sup> Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.
- <sup>35</sup> And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.
- <sup>36</sup> Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.
- <sup>37</sup> And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.
- <sup>38</sup> And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.
- <sup>39</sup> And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.
- <sup>40</sup> And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.
- <sup>41</sup> And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.
- <sup>42</sup> And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.
- <sup>43</sup> But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that

*they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:*

*<sup>44</sup> And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.*

Not only did Paul face the storms on the seas but there was another great danger which he faced every time he traveled and that was the pirates. Pirates lined the coasts of the seas. They would tuck themselves within the coves along the seas and wait for ships to pass by. When the pirates attacked they struck very quickly. The pirates would be armed to the max. They would often slaughter those on the ship and sail away with their plunder. If there was much resistance from those aboard they would then set fire to the ship and the ships were made from nothing but wood. The pirates were also involved in slave trade and would sometimes capture those aboard the ship and then sell them into slavery. I am sure that in Paul's travels he would have heard the announcement that "Pirates are approaching from this direction or that direction". Paul knew these dangers every time he stepped on a ship but he took it all in stride. He would not let the dangers of the sea, the robbers, or the water deter him from spreading the Gospel. He believed the Gospel was the power of God unto salvation. He knew when it was accepted it set people free from their sins so he was determined to reach as many people as possible in his lifetime.

#### **Notice 2 Corinthians 11:27**

We looked at this verse last week but again I remind you that Paul knew what it was to be weary, tired and sore from his labors. There were times when he fell asleep hungry or thirsty because he had no food or water. He may have lacked the finances to purchase food or he was in a situation where there was none available. Whatever the circumstances Paul never complained.

#### **Philippians 4:11-13**

*<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

*<sup>12</sup> I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

*<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Now these were all the physical sufferings which he went through. These could be seen as the Sufferings of a pioneer. But there was something which weighted Paul down even more. This was the Sufferings of a Pastor.

A. The Care of the Churches

**Notice 2 Corinthians 11:28**

To Paul the sufferings which were physical were "light afflictions" but the sufferings he experienced as a pastor far exceeded them. This care of the churches placed his heart under the greatest amount of weight. Notice the words of Redpath on the statement "That which cometh upon me daily".

*"I could not possibly convey to you adequately in the English language the force of that statement. I tried to picture it in terms of being smothered under a blanket, or by being attacked and crushed by some great animal, for he could not have used a stronger word when he said, in effect, 'That which bears me down, that which is upon me as an intolerable load, that which is a burden, that which is something that I can never shake off day or night. It is with me always. I have no vacation for it ever. It is upon me daily. The care, the compassion, the concern of all the churches.' "*

We can read 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians and see how burdened he was with this church. Remember when he had sent the "lost letter" and he was waiting on the return of Titus?

**2 Corinthians 2:4**

*<sup>4</sup> For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.*

**2 Corinthians 2:12-13**

*<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,*

*<sup>13</sup> I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.*

**2 Corinthians 7:5**

*<sup>5</sup> For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.*

This was just the burden of the Corinthians. There was also the Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philipians, Romans and the Thessalonians. There was then the church at Jerusalem which he cared so much for which we can see in his collection to help the saints in their poverty.

**Notice 2 Corinthians 11:29**

Here in this verse Paul gives to us a small description of how he cared about the churches.

1. **Who is weak and I am not weak?**

This question was to help the Corinthians to understand that when there was someone in the body of Christ who was defenseless and weak he himself became weak with them in the sense that he felt their weakness as their shepherd. There were those who were weak because of circumstances in their lives maybe poverty or illness had brought them to the state of weakness. There were those who were weak in faith. Let me show you an example of Paul's compassion toward those who were weak in faith.

**1 Corinthians 8:7-13**

*<sup>7</sup> Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.*

*<sup>8</sup> But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.*

*<sup>9</sup> But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*

*<sup>10</sup> For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;*

*<sup>11</sup> And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?*

*<sup>12</sup> But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.*

*<sup>13</sup> Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.*

**Romans 14:21**

*<sup>21</sup> It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.*

Paul completely identified with those who were weak and defenseless.

2. **Who is offended and I burn not?**

This question was to show how much he cared for those who had been made to stumble. When he discovered that someone had been led to stumble and fall he BURNED which means he was full of indignation. It really upset Paul to think that someone would do something that would trip or cause to stumble a brother or sister in the Lord.

He most likely had in mind here those who were led astray through the false teachers. The strong could see them for who they were "false apostles, but the weak could not discern and they had bought into what the false apostles were teaching. This flared up in Paul a RIGHTEOUS ANGER. Paul possible was thinking of the Words of Jesus.

**Matthew 18:5-6**

*<sup>5</sup> And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.*

*<sup>6</sup> But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

**Conclusion:**

Paul was far different than the false apostles. They had no compassion for the people. They were all about personal gain. But Paul was all about strengthening the body of Christ and he lived the very words he recorded in 1 Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 12:25-26**

*<sup>25</sup> That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*

*<sup>26</sup> And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*