

# God and Shipwrecks

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 27.
- B. Luke affords careful detail of the ship travel.
- C. The chapter divisions.

## II. Difficulties and delays in the voyage.

## III. Divisions and dangers that were faced.

- A. Paul's conviction was that there would be no loss of life because of the appearance of an angel.
- B. He would make his way to Caesar.
- C. He was praying to God on behalf of the sailor's life.
- D. This is an example of the power of a man of prayer who asks in faith.
- E. The church is the secret government on earth having power to influence the current events by prayer.
- F. All was the same for Paul as his companions, but God granted him a secret Word—the characteristic of Christianity is tapping into hidden resources.
- G. Christians are to keep their head when all others are losing their heads contra the world's teaching.

## IV. Disaster and deliverance.

- A. God's announced purpose never cancels out man's free will in that plan.
- B. Because of this, Paul insists the sailors stay in the boat.
- C. There is a tie between the physical and the spiritual—the sailors' spiritual despair produced a lack of desire for food—Paul encouraged all the sailors in their faith that God would deliver them.
- D. Paul counters the plan to kill the prisoners by soldiers and thus saves them.

## V. Why Christians face "shipwrecks" when they seem to be doing things right.

A. Satan is trying to hinder us, but God is stronger than Satan is and allows Satan to work sometimes so that there might be lessons for others, lessons for us and so that victories might take place behind the scenes that we will never know about. (Psalm 29, Job)

B. Everything went wrong but everything was turned right.

**Application questions:**

1. What is the importance of Paul's "secret word" from God as it relates to the Christian life?

---

---

2. How does Paul encourage the guards in their distress in a way we should encourage others?

---

---

3. How do you explain your shipwrecks in light of God's working?

---

---