

“I BELIEVE GOD...”
Acts 27:20-25

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul had been unjustly imprisoned for two years.
2. To receive justice, he exercised his privilege as a Roman citizen and appealed to Caesar.
3. He was on his way to Rome as a prisoner when his ship was caught in a fierce storm on the Adriatic Sea.
 - a. For fourteen days they were driven by fierce winds.
 - b. They girded the ship with cables to keep it from being broken.
 - c. They lightened it by throwing the ship’s tackle overboard.
4. Paul spoke to the 276 men on board to calm them.
 - a. An angel of God had spoken to him in the night.
 - b. He assured Paul he would appear before Caesar, and all in the ship would be saved.
 - c. However, the ship and its cargo would be lost.
5. Paul then said: “I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.”
 - a. Just as Paul had full confidence that God would keep His word sent through His angel, we can also believe God’s promises.
 - b. God speaks through His Son today (Hebrews 1:1,2).
 - c. His Word through Christ is recorded in the New Testament.

Discussion:

- I. I BELIEVE GOD WHEN HE ACKNOWLEDGED JESUS AS HIS BELOVED SON.
 - A. When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan, God acknowledged Him as His Son (Matthew 3:13-17).
 1. The Holy Spirit, like a dove, gently descended upon Him.

2. The Father spoke from Heaven: “This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased!”

B. The Heavenly Father made a similar acknowledgement when Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8).

1. Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain.
2. He was transfigured before them.
3. Moses and Elijah appeared and were speaking to Him.
4. Peter, overwhelmed at what he saw, said:

“Lord, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three tabernacles, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

5. A bright cloud overshadowed them and a Voice spoke:

“This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; Hear Him!”

6. I believe God!

- a. Jesus is His beloved Son.
- b. We are not to hear Moses or the prophets today but God’s Son Who is the Mediator of a new covenant.

II. I BELIEVE GOD WHEN HE SAID HE HAS APPOINTED A DAY ON WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD.

A. Few today actually believe they will stand before the Lord to give an account of what they have done in this life.

1. Daniel Webster said: “The most solemn thought that ever occurred to me is that I will one day stand before my Maker to give an account of my life.”
2. Many get away with wrongdoing in this life, but they will answer for it at the Judgment (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14).

B. The Bible is specific about the Judgment.

1. God has appointed a Day to judge the world (Acts 17:31).
2. He has appointed His Son as the Judge (John 5:22).
3. Everyone will be judged (2 Corinthians 5:10).
4. Our eternal destination will be pronounced at the Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46).

III. I BELIEVE GOD WHEN HE PROMISED REMISSION OF SINS TO ALL WHO OBEY CHRIST.

A. Some think they are too evil to ever be forgiven.

1. God will forgive any sin we truly repent of and confess:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

2. The “sin unto death” is any sin one will not confess (1 John 5:16).

B. To become a Christian, one must “repent and be baptized for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38).

1. Under the Law of Moses sins were not forgiven but the punishment was held in abeyance.

“For it was not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4).

2. Under the Law of Christ, our sins are forever blotted out by the blood of Christ.

“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and lawless deeds I will remember no more” (Hebrews 8:12).

IV. I BELIEVE GOD’S PROMISE HE WILL PROVIDE FOR HIS PEOPLE.

A. We wear ourselves out worrying over material things.

B. Jesus told us not to worry about food and clothing.

- 1. God provides for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field.**
- 2. Since we are of much greater value, He will surely provide more abundantly for us.**

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you” (Matt. 6:25-33).

C. God gives further assurance through the writer of Hebrews:

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The Lord is my helper: I will not fear. What can man do to me?’” (Hebrews 13:5,6).

V. I BELIEVE GOD WHEN HE SAID: “BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD.”

A. Revelation was written to Christians who were being killed because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

B. From the earthly standpoint, they may have wondered if it was worth it.

C. God assured them (and us) that it is:

“Then I heard a Voice from Heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them’” (Revelation 14:13).

Conclusion:

- 1. A wall plaque says: “God says it; I believe it; that settles it!”**
- 2. Perhaps it should say: “God says it; that settles it; I believe it.”**
- 3. Because He cannot lie, we can trust everything God says (Titus 1:2).**