

Take Courage! Jesus is a sure thing in the storm.

After storms, trials, persecutions, and many difficulties, Paul arrives at his destination... ROME! Here we find Paul preaching the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with boldness and without hindrance. What's going to get you to your final destination? What "dangers, toils, and snares" will you go through before you arrive? Are you going to leave it to chance? Don't gamble with your soul. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

Acts 28:11-31 (Abridged Version)

After three months on Malta, Paul and his companions sailed on an Alexandrian ship marked with the figurehead of Castor and Pollux. They stopped at Syracuse for three days, then continued to Rhegium and finally reached Puteoli, where they stayed a week with local believers. From there they traveled to Rome. When believers heard he was coming, they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet him, greatly encouraging him. Upon arrival, Paul was allowed to live separately under guard.

Three days later, Paul met with the local Jewish leaders. He explained that although he had done nothing against Israel, he was arrested in Jerusalem and forced to appeal to Caesar. He stressed that he was in chains because of "the hope of Israel." The leaders said they had received no accusations against him but wanted to hear his views, since the Christian movement was widely debated.

A large group returned to hear Paul teach about the kingdom of God and show from the Law and the Prophets that Jesus is the Messiah. Some believed, while others rejected the message. Paul quoted Isaiah, explaining that Israel's hardness of heart prevents understanding and healing. He concluded by declaring that God's salvation has now been sent to the Gentiles, who will listen.

For two years Paul lived in his own rented house, welcoming all who came. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ with boldness and without hindrance.

Additional Support:

- John 11:25-26 — Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 — Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first

importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

- John 12:25 – “Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25).
- Matthew 16:24-27 – Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”
- Romans 6:4 – We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Ask the following questions as they relate to the points above.

1. What stands out to you from these verses? Which passage speaks to you most?
2. Paul lived a life filled with adventure and risk. Do you think his conversion has anything to do with this? How did his belief in Christ’s death and resurrection affect the way he lived out his faith? What can we learn from this?
3. The ship carried the figurehead of Castor and Pollux—symbols of protection. What modern “figureheads” do people trust for safety and security? What false hopes or beliefs are people tempted to rely on instead of Christ? How do you discern whether your trust is in God or in something that only *looks* secure?
4. Paul used every circumstance as an opportunity for ministry. What circumstances in your life might God be inviting you to use for His purposes? Some believed Paul’s message; others rejected it. How do you respond when people reject or misunderstand your faith? What does Paul’s boldness teach you about sharing the gospel in your own daily context? What hindrances keep you from sharing your faith?
5. What “final destination” are you truly living for, based on your daily choices and priorities? If you compared your life to Paul’s voyage, what season are you in? What step of obedience or surrender is God calling you to take right now?
6. Identify one major takeaway from this lesson. What insight did you gain? Summarize it in one or two sentences.

We must abandon the ship doomed for destruction and board the vessel that leads to life. A false belief or hope will not get you safely to your final destination. Only GOD will! Don’t gamble with your eternal soul. Trust in Christ alone. The true adventure begins when you surrender your life completely to Jesus.

Bible Refs: [Acts 28](#); [2 Corinthians 11:23-28](#); [John 12:25-26](#); [Matthew 16:24-27](#); [Romans 6:4](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-8](#); [John 11:25](#); [2 Timothy 4:6-8](#); [1 Timothy 1:19](#)
[SPANISH]

Pollux and Castor: A Lesson in False Advertising

Calling the ship Titanic was a way of saying: “This is the greatest ship ever built.” The name itself was part of the marketing. Perhaps it’s also a lesson in false advertising. The name didn’t live up to its billing. The Titanic disaster resulted in around 1,500 deaths.

Paul and the rest of the men with him didn’t really have a choice. It wasn’t a luxury cruise. They were prisoners being escorted by Roman soldiers. They had to board the ship. But, so you know what they were really thinking when they saw this boat with the sign of the “Twin Brothers” on it, they used a specific word to describe it. They wanted you to know where they placed their trust.

The word Luke used here, that I read as “figurehead,” is more accurately translated as “marked conspicuously, falsely, or spuriously.” This word also means “counterfeit.” So Luke is saying that this boat was inaccurately or falsely marked with the sign of the “Two Brothers.”

Paul and Luke and the rest of their party knew that it wasn’t any false idol or greek gods that got them safely to land after their last boat was destroyed. It was God! And they knew that it wasn’t some superstitious belief or hope in a mythological god that was going to get them safely to their final destination.

In Greek mythology these brothers were offspring of Leda the wife of the King of Sparta. Castor was mortal as he was the offspring of his mortal parents but Pollux was immortal as Zeus (or Jupiter) also lay with Leda the same night as her husband. Thus she gave birth to both a mortal son and an immortal son. So the myth says.

However, Castor being mortal died so his brother Pollux asked Zeus if he could share his immortality with him. He was granted his request and they were transformed into the constellation Gemini, the twin brothers.

The word counterfeit indicates that the story of these two brothers was a counterfeit in itself. The one immortal son asked his father to allow him to share his immortality with his deceased brother. He was granted his request and his brother was given immortality. Sound familiar?

The first Adam brought death, and the second Adam, which is Christ, brought life. We who are mortal and condemned to death, through Christ are given life. Jesus, God’s Son, shared His immortality with us, the sons of men. And promised to one day be able to put on immortality.

In the same way Paul and the passengers had to make the decision to give up the vessel that was doomed for destruction in order to get on board the vessel that leads to life. We too are asked to lay down our life so that we can put on immortality. Though we do not

become “gods” or even “little gods” we are promised eternal life. It is our blessed hope. Our final destination is to be made like Christ and to share in His life.

Baptism is like giving up the first ship representing death for the second boat representing life (Romans 6:4). In baptism as we go under the water, we testify that our old life is buried with Christ and as we come up out of the water, we testify of the new life in Christ and in the resurrection of the dead to come!

These guys knew where their hope was! It wasn't in which boat they were traveling in, it wasn't in some supposed myth or superstition, it wasn't in the world, or the technology of the day. Their hope was in God! And most importantly, they knew it was in the saving grace of Christ's finished work on the cross and His resurrection.

These two ships and these two brothers reveal a truth that all of us must walk out on the way to our final destination. And that is that we live in two worlds. That world of “now, but not yet.” We live in this world but not of it.” The one is passing away. The other is more glorious. The one leads to death. The other life eternal.