

LET US TAKE HEART!

Introduction

- 1) **Acts 27:20-25** – When Paul, as a prisoner, was being taken to Rome, the ship he was on was caught in a terrible storm; all hope was given up by those sailing the ship
 - a) Paul urged them twice to **“take heart”** for God had told him that he and all on the ship would be saved! And they were all saved from the shipwreck (v. 44)
- 2) The Christian will have times when he/she should “take heart” in what God says
 - a) Paul: “I believe God that it will be just as it was told me” (v. 25; Psa. 31:24)
- 3) The gospel message is not just “thou shall not’s,” or just saying what we must not do
- 4) Consider these wonderful and positive things of God’s truth that will cause us to “take heart” even in the worst of times!

I) SALVATION

- A) **Mark 16:16** – belief and baptism = salvation – a promise of our Lord and King
- B) **Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10** – God wants us to be saved and has made it possible

II) PRAYER

- A) **James 5:16; 1:5** – solemn and earnest prayer will accomplish much; gain wisdom
- B) **1 Peter 3:12** – God is listening

III) PROVIDENCE

- A) **Luke 12:29-31** – God will take care of our everyday needs; focus on spiritual

IV) OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

- A) **1 Corinthians 10:13** – God will help us escape
- B) **1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7** – can successfully resist Satan; make him flee

V) FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- A) **1 John 1:7; Colossians 1:14** – We enjoy constant access to God’s forgiveness

VI) UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM

- A) **Hebrews 12:28** – God’s kingdom will not pass away into history like earthly kingdoms

VII) FUTURE REWARD

- A) **1 Corinthians 15:58** – Our labor is not in vain
- B) **2 John 8** – a full reward awaits

VIII) HEAVEN

- A) **1 Peter 1:3-5** – the inheritance is reserved in heaven for the faithful
- B) **Titus 1:3** – God who cannot lie has promised eternal life

Conclusion

Let us take heart every day in these wonderful things and say “I believe God that it will be just as it was told me”! There is no reason for gloom and doom to reside constantly in the heart of one who is living the Christian life faithfully – Jesus has paved the way of joy for us (John 16:33).