



# Divine Encouragement Along The Way

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Bulletin VCAT84

30 July 2025

**“And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him” (Acts 28:16).**

“And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux. 12 And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days. 13 And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli: 14 Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome. 15 And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage. 16 And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him” (Acts 28:11-16).

This study touches on some lessons from Paul's final journey to Rome highlighting his faithfulness in Christian Service and Divine encouragement along the way.

## 1. God's Providence Continues Even in the Midst of Delay and Difficulty

Paul had been shipwrecked, stranded in Malta for three months, and was still a prisoner — yet the journey continued under divine oversight.

- “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Though delays may come, and though the route be not straight, God's purposes remain steadfast. Christian servants must learn to *wait with faith*. Whether you are delayed in ministry, hindered by illness, or slowed by spiritual storms, know this: **God is not idle in delay.**

Even the ship that carried Paul bore the sign of pagan gods—“*Castor and Pollux*”—yet the true God directed the journey. God can use even the

instruments of the world to fulfil His purpose.

## 2. Fellowship Along the Journey Strengthens the Soul

- “Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome” (Acts 28:14).

At Puteoli, Paul and his companions found believers who welcomed them and refreshed them. Even though Paul was a seasoned apostle, he still **needed fellowship**. No one is too anointed to walk alone.

- “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17).
- “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

In the work of the ministry, isolation is dangerous. We must **deliberately seek community** with those of like faith. Whether in prison or in pulpit, we need one another.

## 3. Encouragement is a Divine Gift and a Human Responsibility

- “Whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage” (Acts 28:15b).

Though Paul was going to trial, when he saw the brethren who came to meet him from afar, his spirit was lifted. He *thanked God*, and *took courage*.

There is a powerful truth here: **the presence**

of other believers can be a channel of divine courage. You may never know the full impact of your presence in someone's life.

- "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).
- "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Let us not underestimate the power of **intentional encouragement**—a visit, a call, a prayer, a letter. These seemingly small acts revive weary souls.

#### 4. The Faithful Servant is Never Without God's Provision

Though Paul was still a prisoner, notice verse 16b: - "But Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him" (Acts 28:16b).

God provided Paul with a **measure of freedom and privacy**, even while under Roman custody.

God will make space for His servants, even in tight places.

- "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." (Psalm 23:5).
- "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

Faithful Christian service does not exempt one from hardship, but it **guarantees divine care**. Whether you are bound by circumstance or opposition, know that the Lord will provide rest, refuge, and refreshing along the way.

#### Conclusion: Keep Going, Take Courage, Trust God

Paul's journey to Rome reminds us that Christian service is marked by **trial, fellowship, encouragement, and provision**. These principles remain unchanged today. If you are serving the Lord:

- \* **Stay the course**, even through storms and delays.
- \* **Seek and give fellowship**, for mutual strengthening.
- \* **Encourage and allow yourself to be encouraged**.

- \* **Trust God for daily provision**, even under constraint.

Remember these scriptures:

- "Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded" (2 Chronicles 15:7).
- "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

#### Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy Word which is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Strengthen every servant of Thine who is weary on the journey. Bring encouragement, provide companionship, and let Thy presence be felt even in the tightest of places. Let us take courage as Paul did, knowing that Thou art with us always, even unto the end. In Jesus' Name, Amen.