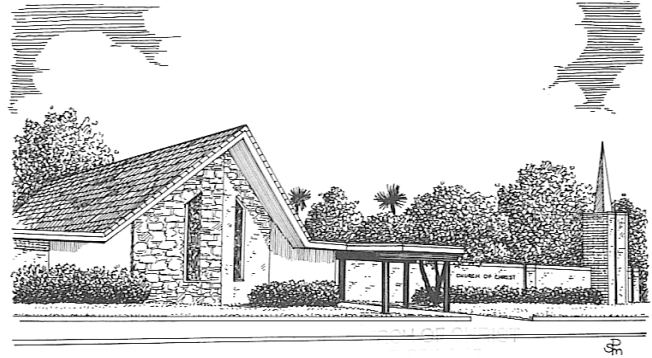


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 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 July 28, 2024



Palm Springs Church of Christ

Palm Springs, CA

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Where is this coming from?

Acts 28 contains an interesting set of events. Paul was part of a shipwreck while he was being transported to Rome. The crew and all the prisoners ended up on the Island of Malta, and the natives received them warmly (verse 2). When Paul went to gather some sticks, a viper fastened itself to his hand (verse 3). Notice the reaction of the natives.

The text tells us that when the natives saw that Paul had been bitten, they thought, ***“No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow him to live,”*** (verse 4). Where did this idea come from? To some people, it must *certainly* mean something that a man survived a shipwreck and swam to shore only to be bitten by a venomous snake. To the people of Malta, it seemed obvious that Paul was guilty.

Paul shook off the viper into the fire, and his hand did not swell up. The people of Malta then reasoned that Paul was a god (verse 5-6). Again, to some people it *certainly* must mean something that a person who already survived the shipwreck could also survive the snake bite. To the people of Malta, it seemed obvious that Paul must be a god if he could endure the bite without even any swelling.

Reading this text reminds me of Ephesians 4:14. This is where the brethren were told not to be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. The people on the island of Malta were all over the map with their reasoning. They were too quick to draw conclusions, just as we see many people do today. **Here is why people often think the way they do:**

Their beliefs are not based upon fact. Whether superstitions or the traditions of men, people can easily convince themselves of things. Regardless of the conclusion, these ideas all come from the mind of man. In other words, they believe whatever they want (Matt. 15:9; 16:13-14). When you push people about *where* their beliefs come from, you will usually find that the ideas came from man and not the Lord.

They were impatient and wanted to believe quickly without inquiring. This is why Paul used children as an example in Ephesians 4. Christians were told not to be like children being tossed to and fro. Children are quick to believe and trust blindly. This is exactly what happened with the people of Malta when the viper bit Paul. They did not even ask Paul why he did not swell. Clearly, we need to ask (Matt. 7:7). We can have the truth if we seek it (John 8:32). It is far easier to just believe what everyone else does rather than verifying it.

Their “logic” excluded other possibilities. The people of Malta concluded that Paul was a murderer and then that Paul was a god, yet neither were true. Rather than investigating, the conclusions were drawn quickly (and erroneously). This is a common problem today as well. People believe things to the point that their minds are closed, and there is no room for discussion. Without a willingness to consider other viewpoints, the odds of coming to a proper conclusion are zero! This is what our Savior was taught when He was punished: ***“If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?”*** (John 18:23). Jesus was not rejecting *the idea* of being accused – He was rightfully demanding that it be proven.

They did not know any better. We should not be surprised when people believe falsehoods. The text in Acts 28 reveals that Paul healed and helped many people on Malta (verse 8). Eventually, Paul was able to talk about the God of heaven and how He gets the glory. It was never about Paul, and he knew that. Just because man does not know better does not mean they are without excuse – they all need to hear the truth (Rom. 10:14-16).

Chuck Bartlett, riverridgechurch.org

**We have a commitment, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
 To give glory to God
 To be unified in reaching others**

*Welcome to the
Palm Springs Church of Christ*



To worship is to stop and reflect upon the majesty and love of God and to praise the One who created us all. Worship also enables us to take time to consider how God would have us act on behalf of the Kingdom of God. A warm welcome to one and all.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. (Ephesians 6:18)”

Pray for our Church family:

Please continue to pray for the improved health of: Mae Britton, Lynette Brink, Sue Collins, Byron Isaac, Brenda Jones, Roy McDonald, Dail Paramore, and Francis Pati.

Pray for family & friends:

Please continue prayers for Amy Miller’s father as he continues to recover at home from a stroke and for Tammy D’Arcy as she continues treatment for breast cancer. Pray for the improved health of: Keith & Lisa Britton, Kerry Britton, Kathy’s husband Kevin, Mary Fields, Derek Fields, Mike Parker, Dail’s friends Marie C. and Teddy K.

First responders: Please keep those who are serving their communities in your prayers: Alisha K. (EMT); Joanna Carter (Nurse), Luther Carter (Naval Officer), Jody Huggins and Jory Huggins (Patrol Officers); Dr. Janice Massey of N.C.

Military:

Jeff Mercer’s son-in-law Brandon Deussenberry, Glenn Fields, and Kathy’s family T. Burgess and T. Cairo.

Prayer Warriors Corner

Lord, we know that You know us and love us. Please help us to continue to trust and hope in You, even in a time of temptation or hardship. Thank You for always being by our side. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Power For Today: Gary Holloway; 11/13/2021

Read: Matthew 4:1-11

News:

Please continue to pray for Lynette and family as they mourn the loss of Lynette’s mom, Wanda.

Please continue to pray for Nilene’s brother, Wayne Duncan: Wayne suffered 3rd degree burns on his left foot and leg. He is now stable and has been moved to a rehabilitation center. Wayne is a long serving member of the church and attends his local congregation in Grants Pass.

In Search of the Lord’s Way: Watch excellent Bible-based messages every Sunday, 7:30 a.m., on KCWQ, VHF channel 2 or UHF channel 26. Also Available ANY TIME online with You Tube. Just enter: SearchTVMinistry and pick a sermon. <https://youtu.be/FxMzZ6ZKMdQ>

The Community Food Bank: Peanut Butter and Ramen packs are where the greatest need is at this time. Other non-perishable items are: soups, canned vegetables, canned beans, 1 lb. packs of rice or beans, canned tomatoes, canned pasta sauce and quart size storage bags. Thank you for your continued support, your donation is greatly appreciated.

Today’s Scripture Reading: Acts 28:1-10

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, “This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.” But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god. There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, and after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. They honored us in many ways and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

Sermon title: “Shipwrecked and Snake Bit”



Birthdays:

Blake Axsom:	7/15
Yanira Fuentes:	7/18

Wedding Anniversaries:

Blake & Annie Axsom:	7/19
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Bible study: Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship service: Sunday @ 10:30 a.m.

WORSHIP ORDER

WELCOME / OPENING PRAYER

414: Anywhere with Jesus (1, 2 & 4)

176: Lamb of God 1 & 2)

COMMUNION & OFFERING: Luke 22:19-20

736: To Christ Be True (1-3)

Brief Intermission

634: We’ll Work Till Jesus Comes (1-3)

SERMON

911: Bring Christ Your Broken Life (1-3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSING PRAYER

Sermons on line: For the most recent locally recorded sermon, simply go to the Palm Springs Church of Christ webpage and click on the “sermons” category at the top of the page.

<http://www.crenshawchurchofchrist.com>

Tri Lakes Church of Christ in Monument, Colorado