

THE VOYAGE OF LIFE

Rev. G. A. Rogers

Good morning, Highway readers. Our text this morning is found in Acts 27:31. "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." The theme which we have chosen for our meditation this morning is, "The Voyage of Life." Jesus when here in the flesh used parables to bring spiritual truths before His hearers. Paul used certain figures in his epistles. Charles D. my God, I will not grudge to spend many nights Mountain Railway." In meditating upon Paul's voyage to Rome, the great metropolis of the world in that day, we gather many lessons that might be applied to our lives as we make our voyage toward Heaven, the great metropolis of the universe. The writer of the Hebrews said, "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." After the buildings of our great cities have crumbled and these tabernacles of clay have dissolved, the Christian's have "a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

I. In order for Paul to go directly from one continent to another he was obliged to sail over the great sea known as the Mediterranean Sea. In order for people to make the course from their starting point in this world to their eternal home they are obliged to make their voyage over the great sea known as Time. On the Mediterranean Sea and on any sea there are days that are calm and days when the waves dash high. Sometimes the sun shines brightly and on other occasions the clouds hang low. There are days on the sea of Life when there doesn't seem to be a ripple in the way or a cloud in sight. The apostle Peter hints at other seasons when we "are in heaviness through manifold temptations;" that our faith might "be tried with fire," and "be found unto praise and honour and glory" at His appearing. The clouds may gather in the time of great sorrow. On the Mediterranean Sea they encountered different winds. On the Sea of Life we are met with the deceiving soft wind of the south, with contrary winds, shifting winds, and now and then with that tempestuous wind. There were quicksands on Paul's trip and there are quicksands of sin and whirlpools of iniquity on the Sea of Life. There are treacherous reefs, shoals and many rough and jagged rocks along the shores of time. There is a place of shifting seas or where the two seas of Time and Eternity meet.

II. The Ship is the next thing we wish to consider. I make two observations. One is general and the other is specific. In my general observation I would liken the Gospel plan to the Gospel Ship known as "Zion." Noah's Ark was provided for people prior to the flood. The Gospel Ship of Redemption was provided for the "whosoever will." When other boats have been capsized and completely swamped the Ship of Zion has braved the contrary winds and ploughed through the angry seas and landed souls on the eternal shore. She has carried, is carrying, and will continue (to the end of time) to carry souls to Heaven. The majority of people didn't avail themselves of their opportunity when Noah prepared the ark. It is sad today that many are not accepting the offers of Redemption. Some may refuse to enter the Gospel ship and discover one day that the Ship has made her last course. The specific observation I wish to make is of our own Life or Barque. We are made free moral agents. Christ seeks to enter our lives. We bid Him enter or we reject His admittance. We

come to the place eventually where we take the course to Heaven or take the course to destruction. We need Christ to guide our life toward the skies.

III. Let us note the words, "They lightened the ship." They relieved the ship of cumbersome and unnecessary things. We must lighten the Gospel Ship and our lives of sinful and questionable things and get rid of "the weights" and that "besetting sin." Unnecessary cares and worries should be thrown overboard. They lightened the ship again and threw out wheat. Wheat was good, but it endangered their lives. We may have to discard from our lives some good legitimate things that would rob our soul of God's best.

IV. The Gospel Ship needs equipment. (a) The engine and machinery might be likened to the Church services—Young People's Societies, Sabbath schools, prayer meetings, etc. Machinery and organization would be of no avail if we lacked the power. The church needs more than a form of godliness. (b) It needs "the power of the Holy Ghost." "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (c) The ship needs a propeller ("that which drives forward by applied force"). Prayer is the great propeller of the church, of the Ship Zion, and of our Christian life. (d) The ship must have a keel ("the lowest lengthwise member of the framework of a vessel, projecting along the bottom from stem to stern"). The keel of the Gospel Ship and of your life is Holiness. If you don't have the keel you are in danger of an upset in your religious experience. (e) The Gospel Ship should have a mast "the spar rising from the keel of a vessel to sustain the yards, sails and rigging"). Up from the keel of a holy character arises the spar of a godly life which is loaded with good works and right influences. (f) The Gospel Ship should have the main sail of Faith. Desire and Determination are good sails to use too. The sails must be set toward Heaven. (g) Ballast is necessary. Ballast of a boat is "any heavy substance put into the hull of the vessel to give stability or to determine her trim in water." Some are on the side of fanaticism, others are on the side of formalism. Some are all faith without the proper works. Some have zeal and no knowledge, others have knowledge but no zeal. We need "a zeal according to knowledge." We need a good ballast of perfect love, peace and wisdom or sanctified common sense. (h) We need the rudder of a good Christian experience to govern our course. (i) The anchor is very needful on the ship for times of storm to keep the boat from drifting. The Christian has the anchor of "Hope," that is both sure and steadfast." This anchor holds and firm remains because it is anchored to Christ, the Solid Rock. (j) We have the compass of God's Word. With the Bible we can locate our position and determine our course on the Sea of Time.

V. Christ is the Wonderful Captain on the Gospel Ship and at the helm in your Christian life. He made the voyage before and He knows the places of danger. He will save our lives from the quicksands of sin and kill keep us from the treacherous reefs and shoals along the Sea of Life. Christ the Captain of our Salvation has promised never to leave us. I feel safe with Christ in control of the "Gospel Ship" and at the helm of my life.

VI. Heaven is the port of the Christian and should be desired by every son of Adam's

race. Are we within the Ark of Safety today? Have you Christ in your life today to guide you in the tests of life and to pilot you from Time into Eternity? With Christ as Captain of our Ship and Pilot of our life we shall be enabled to enter our desired port, Heaven.

CORRESPONDENCE

A number of friends gathered at the parsonage at Hartland and gave Mrs. H. C. Mullen a surprise party on the afternoon of her birthday. She was presented with a beautifully decorated birthday cake and a lovely congo-leum square. Others who were unable to be present contributed to the gift which was very gratefully acknowledged.

We pray God's blessing on the good people of this field who have shown us many kindnesses. Their lips and lives bear glad testimony to the rich experiences of grace that God has given them, and as we mingle with them, how we enjoy their fellowship!

We were delighted to have Brothers Arlo Farnham and Clifton London with us in the services over Sunday, Feb. 1st. They were home on a brief leave from their duties in the Air Force. These Christian young men have demonstrated that God can keep and give them victory in the midst of ungodly companions. May God keep all such young men who are serving our country at this time, and use them for the blessing of others!

H. C. AND MRS. MULLEN

Dear Highway: Black's Harbour

Just a few lines today. We closed our revival services last night. We hated to see them stop, but our evangelist, Rev. F. A. Dunlop, felt he could not stay any longer. We consider we had a good meeting. We did not see all we would liked to have seen, but we thank God for those who did find their way to the Altar of Prayer.

We enjoyed our brother's preaching very much. He seemed to strike twelve every time. Surely God did bless him and he preached under the anointing of the Spirit, if I'm any judge at all. We wondered different times how folk could sit and not come to the altar before he'd get through, but many did not only sit till he got through, but let the whole series get through and held out against God even though under conviction. We trust they shall come in the near future.

Our crowds were good all through. We expect to have a baptism soon and at least three stood up to become members of our church here. Pray for us.

God bless you all. Amen! H. S. MULLEN

The Revival services in Amherst Church, under Brother A. D. Cann, came to a conclusion Sunday, Feb. 1st.

God's presence was with us in every service and the church members who got there were greatly benefitted. Some were unable to attend through sickness.

No sinners saved but one was reclaimed.

Our brother gave us wonderfully strong messages on Holiness, and we rejoice to see our young men preaching and teaching the good old Holiness way.

Amherst is a very busy place these days. People seem too busy to care for their souls, in many instances, so it behooves us who see these things to watch out lest we be "overcharged with . . . and cares of this life and so that day come upon you unawares."—Lu. 21:34.

Yours in His service,

MRS. H. C. SANDERS