

Paul on Malta
Acts 28:1-10
September 17, 2023

v. 1,2 We have a God who not only brings us “safely through,” He goes before us and prepares the way ahead of us.

Deuteronomy 31 – Moses to Joshua

8 “The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Isaiah 45 – The LORD to Cyrus

2 “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.

Isaiah 52 – The LORD to the Israelites

12 But you will not go out in haste,
Nor will you go as fugitives;
For the LORD will go before you,
And the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Psalms 139 – David the Psalmist

5 You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.

When you and I are in God’s will, fulfilling His purpose in our lives, then He encloses us behind and before, and He goes before us.

Vv 3-10 What does the Apostle Paul getting snakebit, and healing others, have to do with his journey to Rome? It would appear that Luke, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is proving once for all that Paul is an Apostle, with Apostolic authority.

See Mark 16. Jesus had told His disciples that He would rise again (8:31, 9:31, 10:34).

Mark 16:1-3 The women at the tomb did not believe that He was going to rise again.

V 11 When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

V 13 They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

V 16 “He who has believed [in my resurrection] and has been baptized [become one with my suffering obedience, even to the point of death] shall be saved [not lose his life to futility]; but he who has disbelieved [in My resurrection] shall be condemned [judged by the Father for your hardness of heart].

“believes and has been baptized shall be saved”?????

1. Water immersed (baptismal regeneration) – contradicts every salvation passage, OR
2. Baptized by the Holy Spirit – seems redundant, plus had not happened yet; out of context, OR
3. Baptized into His sufferings (Mark 10:39)

The Apostle Paul is the only apostle about whom handling of a snake is mentioned, and only he and Jesus are recorded as laying on of hands for healing. These sign gifts were given only the original 11 Apostles, later to include Paul, as verification of their apostleship. Paul’s writings are authoritative!

Why is it important to document the authority of Paul?

- ❖ Wrote 13 of 27 NT books; ~ 30% of the words of NT
- ❖ Justification; Sanctification; Spiritual gifts
- ❖ How a church is to be organized
- ❖ How a man is to behave
- ❖ How a woman is to behave
- ❖ How a family is to operate
- ❖ Sexual normalcy and sexual aberrancy and sexual sin