

Acts 27:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

Analysis

I exhort you to be of good cheer (παρακαλῶ, I encourage/urge you)—Paul shifts from gentle rebuke to pastoral comfort. The Greek euthymeō (be cheerful) meant courage in adversity, not superficial happiness. His promise **no loss of any man's life... but of the ship** seems impossible given their circumstances, yet rests on divine revelation, not optimism. This demonstrates Christian hope's distinctiveness: grounded in God's word, not circumstances. Paul's confidence amid disaster mirrors Jesus calming the storm—both reveal faith's supernatural source.

Historical Context

Shipwrecks in antiquity often resulted in total loss of life, especially in winter storms. Paul's guarantee of survival defied maritime experience and common sense. The fulfillment (all 276 survived, v. 37) validated both his prophetic gift and God's sovereign protection over His servant bound for Rome.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does biblical hope differ from positive thinking or wishful optimism?
2. When has God's promise sustained your courage despite impossible circumstances?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τανῶν	παραινῶ	ὑμᾶς	εὐθυμεῖν·	ἀποβολὴ	γὰρ
And	G3568	I exhort	you	to be of good cheer	loss	for
G2532		G3867	G5209	G2114	G580	G1063
ψυχῆς	οὐδεμία	ἔσται	ἐξ	ὑμῶν	πλὴν	τοῦ
of any man's life	no	there shall be	among	you	but	G3588
G5590	G3762	G2071	G1537	G5216	G4133	
πλοίου						
of the ship						
G4143						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:36 (Good): Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

Acts 27:25 (Good): Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

Psalms 112:7 (Parallel theme): He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

Acts 27:34 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

1 Samuel 30:6 (Parallel theme): And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

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