

Sermon Handout

The Manifest Grace of God

Acts 28:1-10

*The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies
are over all his works.* — Psalm 145:9

I. The Events on Malta

- a. “Melita” a Canaanite word meaning “refuge.”
St. Paul recognizes it to be a fitting name *cf.* v. 2
- b. The Phoenician inhabitants are kind to the survivors v. 2
- c. The snake bite vv. 3-6 (*see* Mk 16:18)
 - i. St. Paul helping with the fire v. 3
 - ii. A constrictor type snake vv. 3b-4a
 - iii. The pagan reaction vv. 4-6
 - iv. They conclude he is a divine person v. 6b *cf.* 14:8-19
- d. Publius – the “foremost citizen” *cf.* Conzelmann’s inscriptions
 - i. Shows kindness and hospitality v. 7
 - ii. St. Paul heals his sick father v. 8 (*see* Mk 16:18)
 - iii. More sick people come to St. Paul for healing v. 9
- e. The island people show gratitude with “honors” and gifts v. 10
See Ex 20:12; Lk 18:20; Eph 6:2; I Pet 2:17

II. Lessons for the Church

- a. Luke’s “intention is to give a final impression of Paul before his entrance into Rome.” (Conzelmann). This is behavior the Christian should emulate.
We are to imitate Jesus: Eph 5:1-2; I Cor 11:1; 4:15-17
- b. Bless those around you – the just & the unjust Mt 5:43-47; Lk 6:35-36
 - i. Reflects our relationship to Jesus: “sons of your Father” Mt 5:45
 - ii. Paul did this throughout the voyage *cf.* 27:21-25
 - iii. God’s tender mercies are shown in all creation Ps 145:8-12
- c. The Christian life is **not** about **getting**; it is about **giving** *cf.* Jn 3:16
 - i. Sowing to the Spirit = doing good to others Gal 6:7-10
 - ii. Comfort, support, be patient – do good to all I Thess 5:14-15
 - iii. Do all to God’s glory; don’t be offensive I Cor 10:31-33
 - iv. Submit to those over you, serving the Lord Eph 6:5-8
 - v. Be salt & light; let good deeds point to Jesus Mt 5:13-16