

The Following Message is Message #092B

CONSIDERING THE COLD

Text: Acts 28:1-6

Introduction

I. Text we read comes during Paul's journey to Rome

He had been arrested in Jerusalem for preaching Jesus-placed on trial

Politicians who were trying to satisfy everybody ran trial

During one of the proceeding, Paul appealed to Caesar-his right as a Roman citizen

He was being sent to Rome to plead his case before Caesar

II. Text comes right after perilous stretch on the journey

Really a continuation of what was happening in previous chapter

Acts 27:9, 10 "Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives."

Acts 27:14 "But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon." (For two weeks v.27)

Acts 27:20 "And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away."

God was gracious none was lost-ship wrecked on the island-Melita/Malta today

III. That brings us back to our text

Paul describes the conditions that were present at this time-one really dominates v.2

It was cold-May I say that the same condition is prevalent in our day

Might think I am a little touched-there is more than one kind of coldness

I am not talking about PHYSICAL coldness I am talking about SPIRITUAL coldness

Have to agree with me-this condition is prevalent in our day today

NOT SOMETHING THAT WE PLAN TO DO-JUST SORT OF HAPPENS

IV. A very dangerous condition to be in

Become uncomfortable-start go get restless-WANT TO LEAVE WHERE WE ARE

Not careful stay get INACTIVE-DIE

What do we need to do-Notice what happened in Paul's situation

THEY BUILT A FIRE-THINK SAME THING WE NEED TO DO TODAY

Want to talk to you for a little while about

Confronting the Cold

I hope God see fit to kindle a fire in our midst

Lets talk about this fire for a little while

This fire was made:

I. Desirable Because of the Prevailing Conditions

Wonder if you have ever been really cold physically

Wonder if you have ever been really cold spiritually

What are some of the things that lead cause us to become cold

A. Sin

Matthew 24:12 "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

There is nothing like sin to put out our fire/zeal for God

Many came in tonight not excited because of sin

Not been confessed in our lives-fellowship with God is broken

Sometimes coldness comes because change in

B. Seasons

Genesis 8:22 "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Would it not be nice if it was spring time all the time

Temperature just right every day of the year

God knows not be that way-there has to be a season where things rest
God sends the coldness to cause this to happen
Anybody can serve God in the springtime of the soul-while things are going good
Are times a little coldness comes in to stir us up

C. Sudden Changes

Proverbs 25:13 "As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters."

III. Weather at S. Pole

We have known times of drastic temperature changes-both physically and spiritually
The fire was made Desirable because of the Prevailing Conditions
Also we can say that it was

II. Difficult Because of Present Circumstances

There is another fact about the weather that is given to us in these verses
Not only does the scriptures say it was cold-also says it was raining
Remember the storm that had been upon the sea for 14 days
Everything was no doubt soaked

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO START A FIRE IN THE RAIN-NOT EASY

That why I say it was Difficult Because of Present Circumstances
Same thing is true in our life spiritually
Want a fire and there are so many things that are going against us

A. World

Always calling with its allurements and amusements

B. Church

Some of the biggest problems we face this week not be external but internal

1. Say one thing that is pretty easy to see-Some not come

Not help with the fire if you are not here-Other things will be more important to you
Aware that may be providentially hindered-sickness etc.

IF NOT HERE WHEN COULD BE-YOU HAVE SINNED-MAKING IT DIFFICULT

Many things to distract us-pull us away

2. Some not willing to pray

3. Some not willing to repent

Making it difficult to get the fire started

III. Dangerous Because of Perilous Enemies

A. When the fire started to burn notice what happens-The snakes begin to crawl

Not everybody will like what goes on if things start happening
THERE BE SOME THINGS COME OUT IN PEOPLE NEVER KNEW BEFORE
Things will start to upset their little apple cart-under conviction not want deal with it

B. Never know who it will be in

The devil is looking for somebody to work through- Better be sure that it is not you

C. Learn a lesson about what to do

Do not try to deal with it yourself

YOU GET THE DEVIL IN YOU TRYING TO GET HIM OUT OF SOMEBODY ELSE

You put them back in the fire-do what you are suppose to do and trust God to work it out

The fire was also made:

IV. A Demonstration of the Power of God

A. These pagans know something about justice of God

Notice what they said v.4

Thought one of two things would happen v. 6a

1. Swollen

2. Died

They changed their mind about him v.6b

Rest assured Paul straightened them out in that matter

B. These people came to know the truth

BECAUSE SOMEBODY BUILT A FIRE

Want you to know world around us know some facts about God-not know Him

They will know Him when they see a fire

COME IN OUT THE DARKNESS AND COLD

C. Look at this story see something interesting

Paul helped build the fire-not stand back and wait on others-got in there and got busy

Wonder if you will do the same

The Cold Within

- by *James Patrick Kinney* -

Six humans trapped in happenstance

In dark and bitter cold,

Each one possessed a stick of wood,

Or so the story's told.

Their dying fire in need of logs,

The first woman held hers back,

For of the faces around the fire,

She noticed one was black.

The next man looking across the way

Saw not one of his church,

And couldn't bring himself to give

The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes.

He gave his coat a hitch,

Why should his log be put to use,

To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought

Of the wealth he had in store,

And how to keep what he had earned,

From the lazy, shiftless poor.

The black man's face bespoke revenge

As the fire passed from sight,

For all he saw in his stick of wood

Was a chance to spite the white.

The last man of this forlorn group

Did naught except for gain,

Giving only to those who gave,

Was how he played the game.

The logs held tight in death's still hands,

Was proof of human sin,

They didn't die from the cold without,

They died from the cold within.