

THE STORY

His Story | My Story | Our Story

The Four Anchors of Paul's Life (Final days)



What will be your final Message?

*"Kris Kringle" Edmund Gwenn (1877-1959) from the film Miracle on 34th Street allegedly said this after a friend commented that it is "hard to die." **Yes, it's tough, but not as tough as doing comedy.***

Groucho Marx (1890-1977) *"Die, my dear? Why that's the last thing I'll do!"*

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) *"I am about to take my last voyage, a great leap in the dark."*

John Spink, Executed via electrocution in 1979- *"Capital punishment means those without capital get the punishment."*



The 4 Anchors of Paul's Life!

Acts 27:27-29 "Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land. And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found it to be fifteen fathoms. Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come."



The 4 Anchors of Paul's Life!

I would like to suggest that there were four anchors in the life of Paul that governed his actions and his character. These four anchors are seen over and over. They become (like anchors on a ship) that which provides stability, and help from disaster. Lets examine these principles in the light of Paul's final days.



Anchor #1- The Anchor of Life (Damascus Rd)

A. Paul's Conversion (Acts. 9)- The Account on the Road to Damascus-Paul was used to religion...but this was so different....Before he was passionate about the law, and enforcing it upon others, now he is passionate about life. Jn. 10:10 “I am come that you might have life, and have it abundantly.” He lived before under condemnation, now he lives under grace...Ep 2 the living reality of the Lord Jesus in his faith walk..



Anchor #1- The Anchor of Life (Damascus Rd)

B. Acts 9:4-6 "Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."



Anchor #1- The Anchor of Life (Damascus Rd)

C. Acts 18:9-11 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."



Anchor #1- The Anchor of Life (Damascus Rd)

Can you hear me?A scientist and a Christian walked in a busy city. The scientist said "What do you hear?" I hear clatter of traffic, chatter of people, the clanging of street cars...No...I hear a cricket and with that he went to a near by building, moved a stone at the wall and uncovered a cricket.



Anchor #1- The Anchor of Life (Damascus Rd)

How could you hear the cricket asked the Christian. I have trained my ears to hear. Now look at this...and the scientist dropped a quarter on the pavement. Immediately the coin tingled, almost inaudibly. But some stopped to look. You hear what you want to hear said the scientist.



Anchor #1- The Anchor of Life (Damascus Rd)

A hardened unbeliever went to listen to G. Whitefield and climbed a tree. Putting his fingers in his ears in order not to hear...a persistent fly landed on his nose and would not leave...when moved his hands from his ears to flick away the fly, Whitefield said "He that has ears...let him hear. Then he spoke of the willful deafness of those who reject Christ.



Anchor #1- The Anchor of Life (Damascus Rd)

D. Acts 23:11 "But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."



Anchor #1- The Anchor of Life (Damascus Rd)

e. Acts 27:23-26 For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island."



Part #2 The Anchor of Death

Acts 14:8-20 “And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"



Part #2 The Anchor of Death

Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe."



Part #2 The Anchor of Death

Col. 2:20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations ---

Col. 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.



Part #2 The Anchor of Death

Romans 6:1-11 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,



Part #2 The Anchor of Death

1 Corinthians 2:2 The Principle Truth....Jesus Crucified for Me "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.



Part #2 The Anchor of Death

We are crucified in Spirit-'I am crucified in Jesus- Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (the spirit was dead....I now live by faith)....



Part #2 The Anchor of Death

We are crucified to the Flesh...the body counts for nothing...Galatians 5:24
And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



Part #2 The Anchor of Death

cc. We are crucified to the World-
Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.



Anchor #2- The Anchor of Death

Years ago a fishing fleet went out from a small harbour on the East coast of NFLD. In the afternoon, there came a great storm. When night settled down, not a single vessel of all the fleet had found its way back to port. All night long wives, mothers, children and sweethearts paced up and down the beach calling on God to save their loved ones. To add to the horror of the situation, one of the cottages caught fire. Since all the men were away, it was impossible to save the home. When the morning broke, to the joy of all, the entire fleet was found safe in harbour. But one face was the picture of despair....the wife of the man whose home had been destroyed. Meeting her husband she cried...."Oh husband, we are ruined. Our home and all it contained has been destroyed by fire!"

Anchor #2- The Anchor of Death

"Thank God for the fire...it was the light of our burning cottage that guided our entire fleet back to port!"



#3. The Anchor of the Gospel (outside the box evangelism)

aa.1 Cor. 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!



#3. The Anchor of the Gospel

(outside the box evangelism)

bb. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." (*Rom. 1:15,16*)



#3. The Anchor of the Gospel (outside the box evangelism)

Acts 16:22-25 “Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.....But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.



#3. The Anchor of the Gospel (outside the box evangelism)

dd. Acts 16:26,27,29 “Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."



#3. The Anchor of the Gospel (outside the box evangelism)

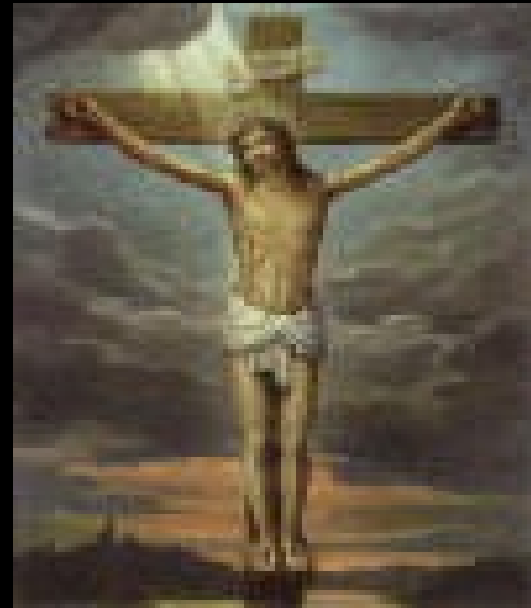
Acts 17: 22,23 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.



#3. The Anchor of the Gospel

(outside the box evangelism)

ff. Acts 21:39 "please let me speak to the people"....Acts when Paul was being assaulted....the importance of the Gospel....



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

aa. **Acts 20:3-6** And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia --- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.⁵ These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

bb.Romans 16:1 “I commend to you Phoebe our sister, greet Priscilla and Aquila, Epaenetus, Mary, Amplias, Urbanus, Stachys, Apelles, Aristobulus, Herodion....(in all, 27 individuals)



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

aa. Teamwork in Prayer...

1 Thess. 5:25 “Brethren, pray for us.”

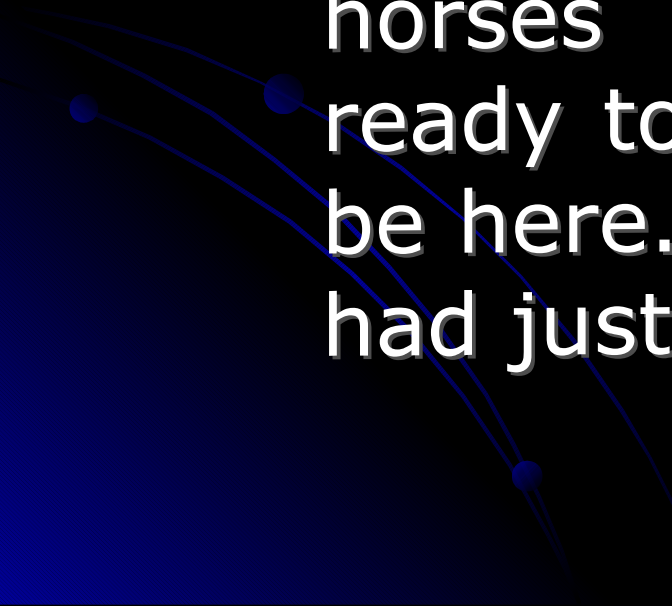
2 Thess. 3:1 “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you”



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

aa. Team work in Prayer...A man fleeing persecution went into a cave, and fell asleep. He awoke to hear soldiers on horses outside the cave ready to enter. No one could be here. Then they left. What had just happened?



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

aa. Teamwork in Prayer-



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

bb. Teamwork in Provision-

2 Cor. 8:16,17 “But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.”



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

cc.Teamwork in Protection- Acts 17:28-30 “So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, **but they attempted to kill him.** When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

dd. Teamwork in Production-2 Tim. 4:6, “I am already being poured out like a drink offering to God. “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”(2 Tim. 2:2)



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

dd.Teamwork in Production-

(1 Cor. 4:16) “Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

(1 Cor. 11:1) “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”



#4. The Anchor of “Teamwork”

(we are not an island)

dd. Teamwork in Production-Preach the Word!

2 Tim. 4: “I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and teaching.³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”