

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 5

## Law/Gospel

In sinful despair, I let the pains of the present overtake me; I doubt God and do not trust His redeeming love. **Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever, rides out the storms of life with me, granting me hope through my redemption in Christ.**

## Bible Words

[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God.

Romans 8:39

## The Big Picture

Early Church Fathers report that Emperor Nero killed Paul and Peter in Rome as Christian martyrs. Roman historian Tacitus (AD 56–AD 120) said Nero blamed Christians for a fire others suspected that he set. It burned two-thirds of Rome. Tacitus also said Christ died “at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate.”

## Sing

We praise You for Saint Peter;  
We praise You for Saint Paul;  
They taught both Jew and Gentile  
That Christ is all in all.  
To cross and sword they yielded  
And saw Your kingdom come;  
O God, these two apostles  
Reached life through  
martyrdom.

“By All Your Saints in Warfare,” st. 19, *Lutheran Service Book* 518, copyright © 2006 CPH.

## Paul Sails for Rome

Acts 27

**B**efore Paul went to Jerusalem for the last time, the Holy Spirit revealed that he would soon experience affliction and imprisonment. God expanded this message through His prophet Agabus. Christians urged Paul not to go, but he replied, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 21:13).

As prophesied, the Romans arrested Paul in Jerusalem to rescue him from an angry mob. While Paul was in jail, religious leaders and others who opposed him and the Gospel of Christ plotted to kill him. When the Roman tribune found out, he secretly moved Paul to the seaside town of Caesarea under the escort of 470 Roman soldiers. There, governor Felix imprisoned Paul, hoping to receive a bribe to release him.

After two years, Porcius Festus replaced Felix. The Jewish religious leaders asked Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem so they could ambush and kill him on the way. Instead, Festus said they could bring charges against Paul in Caesarea, and they did.

When Festus wanted to return Paul to Jerusalem for trial, Paul appealed to Caesar for a trial instead, a right of his Roman citizenship. Festus granted his appeal. Acts 27–28 records this journey under the guard of a Roman centurion named Julius. Paul witnessed to Christ despite ill winds, mutiny, danger, and shipwreck.

In Rome, Paul was imprisoned and guarded by a Roman soldier, but had freedom to receive visitors and talk with anyone he pleased. He preached ceaselessly to anyone who would listen.

Early Church Fathers reported that Paul died in Rome as a martyr, killed because of his faith in Jesus the Messiah. As he said he would willingly do, Paul died for Christ, the one who died to pay for our sins and offer new life and forgiveness to all who believe in Him.

## Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank You for faithful teachers and preachers of Your Word. Keep us in true faith in Christ, our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

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