



Jeff Sweeten

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you  
have a question or comment  
254-386-3953

jeffdsweeten@gmail.com or  
chelejones24@yahoo.com

Website:  
[www.parkheightscoc.com](http://www.parkheightscoc.com)

# *Thus Saith the Lord*

## **I TOLD YOU SO**

By Jeff Sweeten

Paul's journey to Rome as a prisoner for the Lord's cause was eventful to say the least. In Acts 27:10, Paul warned by inspiration that the party ship-bound to Rome should postpone their trip, but why wouldn't a prisoner do his best to delay the proceedings. So, you can't lay too much blame on Julius, the intrepid centurion tasked with bringing Paul to justice, for ignoring Paul's pleas. Nevertheless, as the ship sailed under Crete, they hit Euroclydon, an uber-nasty northern wind, that stopped them dead in the water. As their situation hurtled toward disaster, they lightened the ship, threw over the tackle and lost all hope (v. 20). What a great time for Paul to smirk at two-hundred and seventy-six souls wearing a deer-in-the-headlights look all over their face and say, "I told you so!"

Instead, through fervent prayer, Paul happily presented yet another Divine solution and restored their hope, **if**, this time, they would just **do what God said** they should do. Many of the sailors were trying to escape by jumping ship but Paul warned them, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved" (Acts 27:31). Amazing clarity, isn't it! If they disobeyed, it would be lights-out, curtains and committed to the briny deep. So, after two weeks of a nor'easter that would make a Maine crabber shuffle sideways, Paul's credibility took a positive leap towards "genuine prophet" and they voted to take sustenance and survive the impending shipwreck with their life and an ocean of gratitude: they obeyed God.

Paul's encouraging words are just as relevant today as a metric for living life in God's good graces. "Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me" (Acts 27:25). Oh, if only people would believe that it will be just as God has told us through His inspired revelation, the Bible. So many shipwrecked lives could be salvaged with minimal loss and eternal gain. So much panic, generated by living through one self-inflicted tragedy after another, could be mitigated with a sure and steadfast hope that would breathe life into even the most impossible circumstances. Instead, too many are bent and intent on ignoring God, even mocking those who teach His Word, all the while failing to see beyond their own priorities and into the Divine purpose for which we are created (cf. Ephesians 2:10).

When the ship did wreck (as predicted, v. 41) "so it was that they all escaped safely to land" (v. 44). The results of obedience to God is guaranteed, God does not lie (Titus 1:2). The results of disobedience are just as guaranteed (Matthew 7:21-23). Our passage through life was never intended to be a pleasure cruise. Sure, Jesus promised – and will deliver – an abundant life (John 10:10) but we must obey (John 14:15). How disappointing it will be to hear "I told you so" on Judgment Day!