

*"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."*

**Mark 16:15**

## Store In My Heart

### 2Timothy 2:1-2

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

As Paul awaited his death in a Roman prison, he wrote again to Timothy, his son in the faith. Our passage expresses his main point well, keep depending on Christ and teaching the Gospel. Paul knew his time was almost over and he was at peace with that. He also knew Timothy had a difficult road ahead. Only through Christ would he be able to weather the storms.

Paul spent a great portion of his life suffering for Christ, yet he did not seem to regret any of it. His focus, and what he tried to instill in his listeners, was serving Christ that he might be prepared for eternity. We should have a similar focus.



# An Island Lesson

**Dan Henderson**

Many of those who have known me for very long are aware of my fondness for good physical comedies. I am not talking about recent methods of trying to get a laugh out of filming people doing dangerous things badly. I am talking about comedy that might fall under the category of slapstick. You know, Three Stooges, Bugs Bunny, Wylie Coyote, etc. My wife started keeping the daughter of one of our local families and this has given me an excuse to break out the copies of some of those old cartoons and comedies I remember and love from my childhood. Every kid needs to at least be exposed to good quality cartoons. Besides, have you seen the junk they pawn off as cartoons now-a-days? But I diverge from my path. By the way, the parents are well aware of what we let their child watch.

One of the shows I have been watching lately is an old classic from the 'just as color was getting started' era, Gilligan's Island. You remember the plot. The tale of fateful ship. The Skipper and Gilligan, his fearless crew, take on five passengers for a three hour tour from Hawaii. The rough weather caused them to be shipwrecked on an uncharted island. For three years, and decades of reruns, we watched as they tried vainly to get off that island with no success. About now some of you are thinking, "what does this have to do with God," aren't you?

I think the problem of those "seven stranded castaways" is very similar to one of our problems today. The big difference is direction. They wanted to get off the island. We want others to join us on our island. What???? Bear with me a moment.

As Christians we are part of an island of calm in the midst of the stormy sea of this world. The Church that belongs to Christ is a place of stability and structure. We know that God is with us and that He will help us navigate the cares and struggles here on Earth as long as we submit ourselves to the plan He has provided. Through Christ we know peace.

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable is sleeping most of the time and not eating very much.

Brenda Keisler is in physical therapy for her neck and hip.

Betty Ragsdale had back issues last week and John Ragsdale is having some trouble with his eye.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 15:11.

Wednesday we will start Colossians 2:16.

Take advantage of these opportunities to study with us.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

**John 16:33** *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

**Philippians 4:5-7** *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Our friends and neighbors are trying to find their place in this world. They thrash about trying to discover the secret to happiness and fulfillment. Some of them have a small measure of direction, but most are wandering around following blind leaders into utter desolation. The few who have begun to know a little about God find some measure of hope for peace but do not have the full release of no guilt that we have found in Christ.

They still struggle with the difficulties of the world around them. What did I do to deserve that negative outcome? Why did the blessing go to that liar instead of me? Their hope is for God to change what is happening to them right now. Because of this they will always be in turmoil.

Our hope in Christ is not for the here and now. It is for the hereafter. Because of this we have little need to be worried about such struggles. Our minds are on higher things **Colossians 3:1-3**. What happens here and now is of little consequence unless it changes our eternal abode.

Ok, do you understand what I meant by we want folks to join us on our island? Good, now we can get back to the problem and solution.

The problem for the castaways was always communication! They were never able to successfully communicate with anyone that could help their situation. Oh they tried, every episode had them trying to communicate with anyone who might could help.

We have the same problem today, except often ours is not so much a failure to reach someone as it is a failure to try. One thing was certain for those folks on Gilligan's Island, they would try anything to get their message out. Balloons, robots, ducks, fire, cosmonauts, even bottle messages.

Maybe we need to start thinking a little more like those 'castaways' and see the urgency of the situation. The people in our lives need what we have found. If we don't communicate with the folks in the world around us, most of them will never find their way to the peace that is found only in Christ.

(Yes, if you work through the first paragraph you will know this is a rerun, but then so was every Gilligan I watched. The lesson is still valid today. Are we communicating the salvation we enjoy to those who need it? Is there someone stuck scared and alone who I can 'rescue' from that isolation? That is what God expects of His children. Help others escape to safety. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!