

The
ACTS
of the Apostles



Believers have
the opportunity
to display the Gospel

Acts 26-27

Introduction

- Luke contrasts Paul's upright standing and behavior with the selfish and manipulative behavior of the leaders before whom he is tried.
- These differences highlight the faithfulness of Paul's testimony before King Agrippa and Festus.
- Paul responds with Christlike character in the face of mistreatment, and the light of the Gospel shines through him.

Christians should speak boldly
and honestly about God,
despite the cost

Acts 26:1-32

Paul's defense before Agrippa

- King Agrippa invites Paul to give an account for himself.
- The apostle demonstrates his faithfulness to use the platform of his trials to share the Gospel (verses 1–3).
- Luke records Paul's retelling of his biography, beginning with his rabbinical training and his zealous persecution of the Christian Jews (verses 4–11).

Paul's defense before Agrippa

- Paul doesn't hide his past.
- In fact, he willingly invites witnesses to confirm the things he did.
- He knows the transformation from his former way of life will give greater glory to the work of the Gospel.

Paul Tells of His Conversion

- Paul recounts his experience on the road to Damascus with the same clarity as before, focusing on both the supernatural and personal elements of the encounter.
- He is sure the person reaching into his life was Jesus, risen Savior and Lord over all, ascended to the highest seat of authority, yet intimate enough to place a personal call on Paul's life (verses 12–18).

Paul Tells of His Conversion

- This is a bold statement because it declares Jesus to be one with God, and it also proclaims that Paul has surrendered his life to Jesus' leadership.
- Neither of these statements finds much popularity among a crowd of self-centered rulers and men who love to manipulate the Hebrew Scriptures to justify their self-righteous behavior.

Paul Tells of His Conversion

- Paul concludes his biography with another defense against his accusers, but expands it into a concise presentation of the Gospel (verses 19–23).
- As before, he knows that the deepest issue at stake is whether these people believe Jesus died and rose for their salvation, so he speaks plainly of the need for repentance and deliverance.

Paul Tells of His Conversion

- As he pens in his letter to the Romans, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Romans 10:14).
- Rather than allow his experience to be defined by a struggle for justice, Paul uses his platform to testify to Jesus’ Resurrection.

Paul Tells of His Conversion

- At this point, Festus's true beliefs emerge as he interjects to ridicule Paul's profession of faith (verse 24).
- Paul answers him with confidence and invites Agrippa, who is acquainted with the Hebrew Scriptures, to confirm the truth of his preaching (verses 25–27).
- Paul takes his statement seriously and passionately proclaims his desire that all who hear the message of the Gospel would be set free in Christ (verse 29).

Paul Tells of His Conversion

- Luke concludes this account by recording Agrippa and Festus's half-hearted attempt at preserving justice. They know Paul is innocent, but they decide to pass him off to Caesar (verses 31–32).
- God is teaching us a greater lesson through Paul's unfair treatment, and that is the message of trusting our lives to God when all other people fail us.

Even in turbulent waters,
God keeps His promises to us

Acts 27:1-44

Paul Sails for Rome

- Paul and the other prisoners are kept under the watch of a soldier named Julius.
- Their itinerary followed the customary shipping route along the coast, with stops for provisions at the usual port cities along the way.
- At one of these stops, Paul is allowed to visit some friends who “provide for his needs” and almost certainly minister to his spiritual well-being (verse 3).

Paul Sails for Rome



Paul Sails for Rome

- The weather takes an unfavorable turn, and the ship is unable to follow its itinerary as originally planned.
- The wind makes it difficult to follow the usual shipping route, and the crew is forced to change their port destinations several times.
- Paul discerns that their journey is only going to get more dangerous and warns the crew.

Paul Sails for Rome

- The centurion is unwilling to change course, however, due to the pressure he feels from the ship's owner and his pilot. The financial investment in such a journey is great, and the benefits are hard to pass up.
- Since they cannot find a place to winter during the stormy season, the majority votes to continue (verse 12), potentially risking the safety of everyone on board and wasting precious time and resources.

The Storm at Sea

- They don't make it very far, though, before a powerful storm comes sweeping along the coast of Crete and carries the boat away (verse 14).
- The crew is unable to navigate the wind and waters, so they have no choice but to leave the boat at the mercy of the tempest (verse 15).
- Their plans are now being thwarted by the natural elements they have no control over.

The Storm at Sea

- Luke records the escalation of the situation as the men find themselves in rapidly worsening conditions.
- The storm threatens to tear off the life boat and the crew has to cinch the boat's hull tight with ropes so that it doesn't rattle apart in the waves (verses 16–17).
- After a while, they begin to throw any unnecessary weight overboard in order to lighten the ship and make it more navigable (verses 18–19).

The Storm at Sea

- The soldiers become increasingly concerned as the water's depth rapidly shrinks, bringing the bottom hull of the ship closer to being crushed against the rocky ocean floor (verses 27–29). They let down their anchors in an attempt to slow the ship's progress to shore.
- Some of the men attempt to let down a lifeboat and escape in it, but Paul tells the centurion to call them back because their safety requires all men on board (verses 30–32).

The Storm at Sea

- Despite the dangerous situation and the temptations to doubt God, Paul is still able to gather everyone for a reminder of God's promises (verses 33–34).
- Paul leads them in prayer and they break bread together, a moment of fellowship amid the battering waves (verses 35–36).
- Luke records “they were all encouraged” as they prepare to face what is next.

The Shipwreck

- The newly encouraged men act decisively and with unity, with no one trying to escape this time.
- They employ the full extent of their seafaring knowledge to handle their ship well, boldly facing the approaching shore (verses 39–40).
- They are unable to make a smooth landing on the beach, and instead, the ship gets stuck where the waves begin to break it apart (verse 41).

The Shipwreck

- The soldiers plot to kill the prisoners so they will not have to face the consequences of the Roman court if the prisoners escape. But the centurion intervenes on Paul's behalf (verses 42–43).
- Luke ends the passage with a summary informed by hindsight, written after the events of the narrative, to confirm that God truly did bring everyone through the storm just as He had promised (verse 44).

Application:

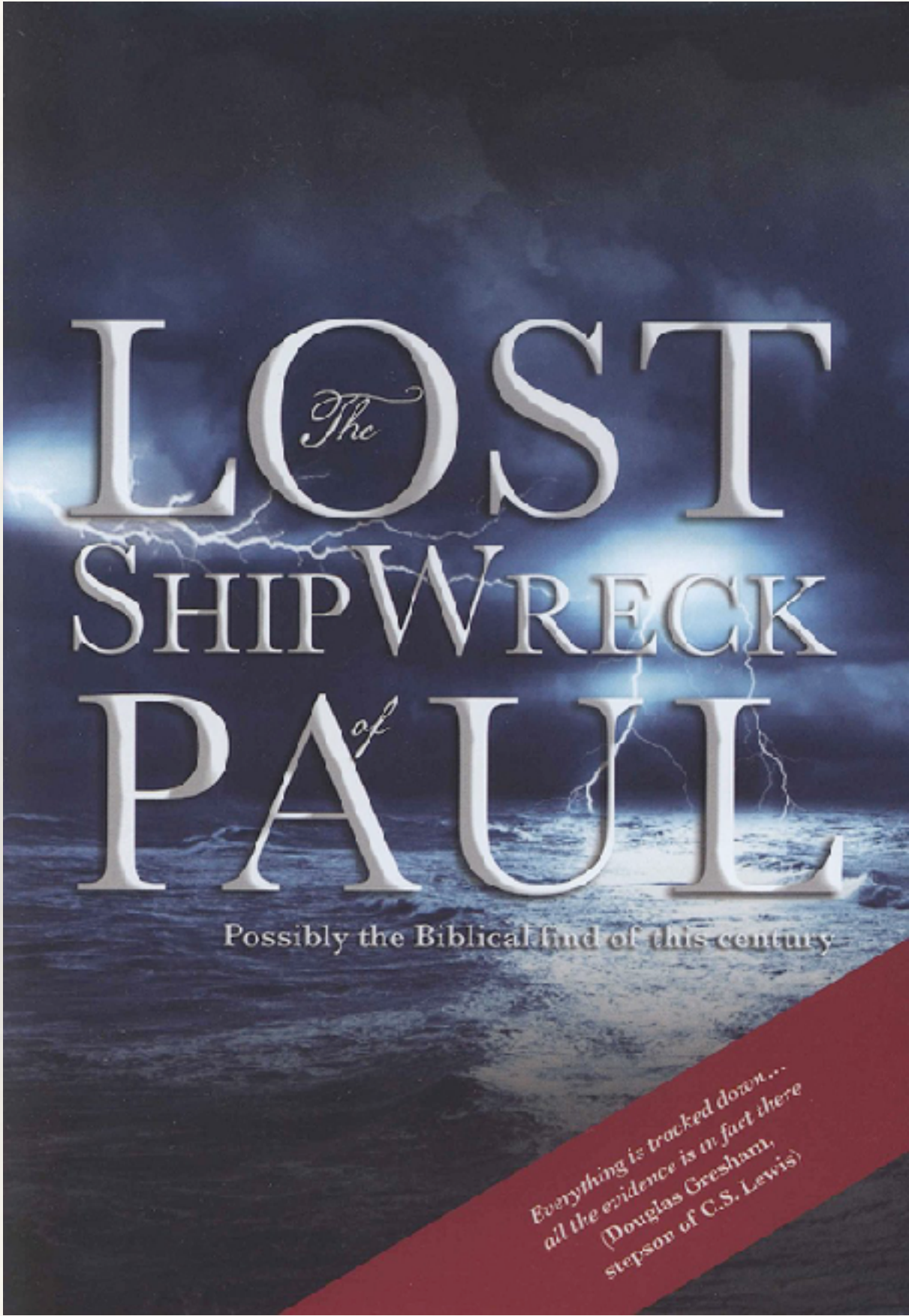
Anchors of Paul

Anchors of Paul



Anchors of Paul

- Four key elements in Acts 27:39-41
 - An island that has a bay with a beach
 - A reef or sandbar where two seas meet
 - Seafloor depth of ninety feet
 - A place the sailors would not recognize



The LOST
SHIPWRECK
of PAULL

Possibly the Biblical find of this century

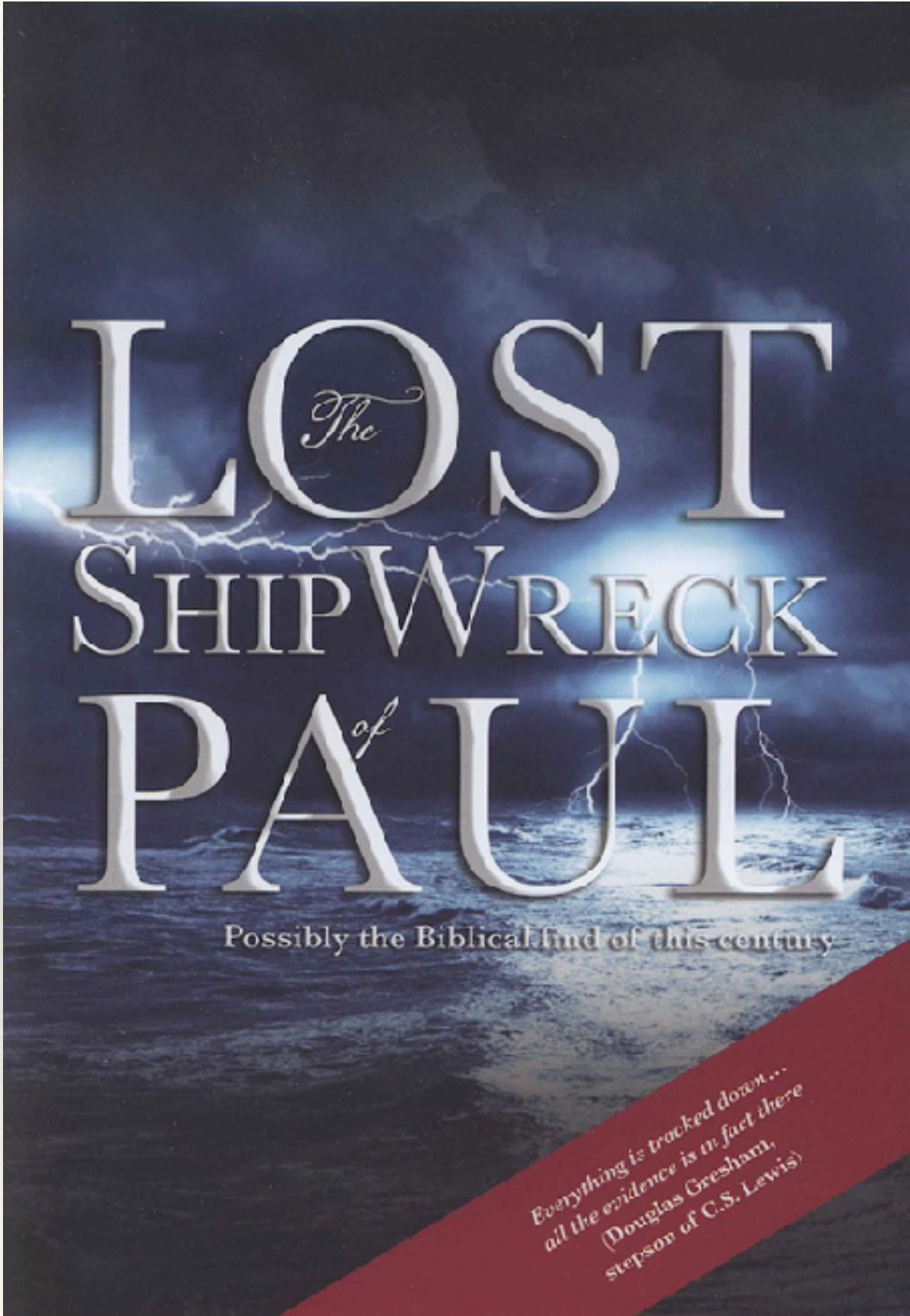
Everything is tracked down...
all the evidence is in fact there
(Douglas Gresham,
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Anchors of Paul



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