

# LOVEFIRST

## STORM WARNINGS: WHEN TREASURES BECOME TRASH

Oct 1, 2017 • Dr. David Self, Executive Pastor • Acts 27

- ▶ **Impulsive financial decisions ignore \_\_\_\_\_ of danger ahead.**  
**“...this voyage is headed toward damage and heavy loss;” (v. 10) “But the centurion paid attention to the captain and the owner of the ship rather than what Paul said.” (v. 11)**
  - Warning **Sign #1:** Perceived inability to be faithful in tithes and offerings
  - Warning **Sign #2:** Lack of an emergency reserve in savings
  - Warning **Sign #3:** Increasing debt, especially if financed by credit cards
  
- ▶ **Storms of life test our \_\_\_\_\_.** Acts 27:13–32  
Despite Paul’s warning, the ship sailed and encountered a “northeaster.” (v. 14) Every Christian will face stormy winds of change in his/her life. Our reactions to storms reveal our relationship to possession and ultimately God:
  - **Some give up hope**  
**“Finally all hope that we would be saved was disappearing.” (v. 20)** Repeated storms sap our energy, vision and finally hope. The sailors did everything within their power to save the ship: **“we let her drive,” (v. 15) “running under the shelter of a little island,” (v. 16) “used ropes and tackle and girded the ship,” (v. 17) “jettison the cargo” (v. 18) and “threw the ship’s gear overboard.” (v. 19)** Disappointment can lead to discouragement, defeat and even despair. The valuable \_\_\_\_\_ (cargo) that drove the unwise decision to set sail, now was treated as \_\_\_\_\_ to be thrown overboard.
  - **Some cling to God’s promises**  
**“Don’t be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar. And look! God has graciously given you all those who are sailing with you.” (v. 24)** God was present, and delivered a promise. (v. 23)
  - **Some want to abandon ship**  
**“Some sailors tried to escape from the ship...” (v. 30)**
  
- ▶ **Trusting God results in thankfulness:**  
**“...he (Paul) gave thanks to God in the presence of all of them.” (v. 35)**

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## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### CONSULTANTS

Free service to help individuals/couples assess their current state, set goals, and lay out a path forward. Go to [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) and search “Financial Consulting” or email the team at [HFBC.Financial@gmail.com](mailto:HFBC.Financial@gmail.com).

### CLASS

#### Financial Peace University

12-week class at The Loop Campus  
Beginning Wed, Jan 31 @ 6:30p  
Free • No registration needed

### BOOKS

*The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn  
*The Total Money Makeover* by Dave Ramsey

### WEBSITE

GuideStone Financial Resources  
([GuideStone.org](http://GuideStone.org)) — Guided by Christian Values

### BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Go to [HoustonsFirst.org](http://HoustonsFirst.org) and search “Business Directory” for a listing of businesses submitted by church members.