



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Thanking God and Taking Courage from Brethren

Paul was put on a ship heading to the city of Rome as a prisoner of the Roman government. While traveling to Rome, the ship he was upon experienced a torrential storm (Acts 27:13-38), a shipwreck (Acts 27:39-44), and Paul suffered a snake bite by a venomous snake while on the island of Malta or Melita (Acts 28:1-10). After having such a troubled journey, what would bring Paul encouragement?

After 3 months, Paul and the others left on a ship from Alexandria landing in Syracuse. After making a circuit they came to Rhegium and settled in Puteoli. While in Puteoli, Paul met brethren (Acts 28:14). These brethren desired Paul to stay with them for seven days before continuing their journey to Rome. After experiencing such dreadful traveling conditions, it was good for the morale of Paul to find brethren. Since Paul abode with them for seven days, there is no doubt he worshiped with those brethren and enjoyed the time spent with them.

As Paul continued on his journey, other brethren heard Paul was coming to Rome and brethren from as far as Appii Forum and the Three Taverns met Paul. When Paul saw them he thanked God and took courage. What a scene this must have been when Paul, who was weary from travel and physically exhausted, met those brothers and sisters in Christ.

When Christians come together today, we should be able to thank God for one another and take courage from being with one another. This is an atmosphere that must be cultivated by members of the Lord's church. When we all are of one mind and one judgment (1 Cor. 1:10), we can become like Paul and these brethren. The system of faith is the common bond each of us have. This is why Christians who do

not often see one another can meet once or twice a year and when they come together it seems as though they have been tied together all of their lives. It is the gospel that causes this to happen.

As we grow in the gospel of Christ and our faith begins to strengthen, we will find that our brother and sister relationships will become stronger. Let's work to cultivate an atmosphere as these brethren had with Paul by growing and maturing together in the faith of our Lord.

-K.A. Pugh

The wind seems to be blowing constantly in Nebraska. One cannot see it. But the evidence of it is there. Flags and crops can be seen waving in the wind. Its force can be felt against the car. Likewise, we cannot see God but the evidence is all around us.

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Rom 1:20 ESV

Though you cannot see God with your eyes, consider the glories of His creation. Thank God today for life itself (Acts 17:24-25), and for the formation of the earth as a place of habitation for man (Isa. 45:18). Serve Him today as the Almighty God. TLM

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