

3-Day Devo: God's Protection on Your Groundhog Day

Based on the sermon by Pastor Bill Gehm, November 16, 2025 (Acts 24:27-25:12)

Day 1: The Anchor of God's Promise

Scripture Focus

- Hebrews 13:5-6
- Acts 23:11

Sermon Insight

Paul was in a dark place, held in the barracks in Jerusalem, facing three assassination attempts in less than a week. It was at his lowest point that **Jesus stood by him** and gave him a clear promise: "**Be of good cheer... you must also bear witness at Rome**". This promise was an anchor, giving him courage even when the situation seemed hopeless.

Reflection

What promise has God given you through His Word, the Bible? Or, in what specific ways have you experienced God intervening and leading you? Even if the fulfillment seems far off—like Paul's destination of Rome—His promise is still true. Take courage.

Prayer Prompt

Pray for a renewed sense of the promises in God's Word. Ask Jesus to remind you of His presence and to give you "good cheer" in the midst of any current difficulty.

Day 2: Perseverance in the Repeat (Groundhog Day)

Scripture Focus

- Acts 24:27
- Acts 25:3

Sermon Insight

Paul was held for "**two long years**". He was stuck in a "time warp"—the same courtroom, the same accusation, and the same plot to kill him, but with new people (Festus, a new high priest). This "Groundhog Day" feeling—where the struggle seems to repeat endlessly—is a common human experience. Meanwhile, the enemy, Satan, "the murderer," was still hard at work in the conspiracy.

Reflection

Where in your life are you experiencing a "Groundhog Day"—a repetition of the same problem, habit, or environment? Don't think God has forgotten you or singled you out for abuse. Your greatest need is not for the circumstances to change, but for **faith in Christ** to get you through the repeat.

Prayer Prompt

Confess any discouragement you feel from the repetitive struggles in your life. Ask God for perseverance, believing that "in love He is working on your biggest problem, and He will not stop working until the job is done".

Day 3: Protection by Surprise and Choice

Scripture Focus

- Acts 25:4, 9-12

Sermon Insight

God's protection came through surprising, even political, means.

- **Protection by Providence:** The new Governor **Festus**, unknowingly preventing the assassination plot, decided Paul should be kept in Caesarea. God brings **new people** into your life who are key to your protection and breakthrough.

- **Protection by Choice:** When Festus offered Paul a "favor"—a trial in Jerusalem where he would surely be killed —Paul exercised his Roman citizenship and made the bold choice: **"I appeal to Caesar!"**. This was the fastest way to Rome, fulfilling the promise. God gives His people liberty to use courts of law lawfully.

Reflection

Do you recognize God's protection when it comes through unexpected sources, like government, a boss, or an unexpected friend? God gives you a free will. Like Paul, you must be wise and decisive in using the lawful means available to you to advance God's plan for your life.

Prayer Prompt

Thank God for the unexpected people and circumstances He has used to protect you. Ask for the wisdom and courage to make the right choices—to say "Yes" or "No"—that move you toward God's purpose, trusting Him to pay for and protect the path ahead.