

should go to Rome, was now about to be accomplished. At the very time when, as we are told, he was actually in danger of being "pulled in pieces" by the people, on account of his faithfulness to Christ, and the chief captain ordered him to be taken by force, and brought into the castle for the security of his life, — under these fearful circumstances of peril it was that "he was to bear witness also at Rome." But who would have conjectured how this was to be brought about? Who could have predicted that Paul, who was to be a witness for Christ at Rome, should go there as a prisoner? Truly, "God's ways are not our ways;" they are, indeed, "past finding out!"

I propose to consider, this evening, the whole account of this remarkable transaction, because it is so full of interest, especially to sea-faring people, and because it is not easy to divide so connected a story into separate portions. Let us now endeavour, by God's blessing, to derive some benefit from it to our own souls. And I think that such benefit may be ours, by our considering, with serious attention, the conduct of Paul, the servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, under the various circumstances of difficulty, danger, and trial, in which he was placed. And this will naturally lead us to contemplate the faithfulness of the Lord to all His promises in behalf of His servants.

I. Let us look at Paul's coolness, presence of mind, and holy courage, in the midst of the most appalling danger. Everybody knows — and some here may perhaps know by experience, — that a shipwreck in a gale of