

A Boat Overturned



A Boat Overturned on Hood's Canal

A young father with a friend went crabbing in a small skiff on Hood's Canal. When one of them was hauling in the crab pot the boat tipped over throwing both of them into the frigid water. For half an hour they were partially submerged cleaving to the overturned boat. At this point the young father, who was beginning to feel the effects of hypothermia, decided the best chance he had for seeing his children and wife again was to swim for shore. His friend earnestly pleaded with him to stay with the boat. He pointed out that the distance was too great, and the water too bitterly cold. However the man pushed off from the boat and started to swim to the shore. After he swam a short distance he disappeared out of sight. A short while later a Coast Guard helicopter rescued the man clinging to the boat. A search was organized for the missing man but his body has never been found.

The young man's family was devastated when they learned of the news of his drowning. If he had only listened to the pleading of his friend he would have been saved. An overturned boat in frigid water just didn't seem to him like a thing he could place his trust in.

I would like to take a moment and plead with you about trusting in something that seems weak and contemptible but is truly the only way of safety for the human soul.

Nearly two thousand years ago outside Jerusalem a man was nailed to a cross of wood between two thieves. He was executed like a common criminal in the most despicable manner practiced in those days. As he hung on the cross men reviled him saying, He saved others himself he cannot save! After he died, as a final act of ignominy and reproach, a soldier stuck a spear deep into his side. To all immediate appearances, this person went down in weakness and defeat. I would like to persuade you to trust him with all you heart, for what was apparent defeat was in truth the most astounding victory the world will ever know. Because the Lord Jesus died on the cross, God can justly put away the sins of every person who will believe. His death might at first seem contemptible but in truth trusting in him is the only way of safety.

His death was a great victory over sin, death, and hell for us. It was a victory over sin because there is no other means to obtain the forgiveness of sins. 'In whom we have

redemption through his blood even the forgiveness of sins.' It was a victory over death because God can now freely offer the gift of eternal life to all who believe. 'The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' And it was a victory over hell because sinners who deserve to go there, by the grace of God, can make heaven their eternal home. 'In my Father's house are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you.'

All your soul's safety depends on what you do with the entreaty, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.' Believe and you will share in the victory that Christ won on the cross. Refuse to believe in the Lord Jesus and go on in your own strength and you will find that you will never make the shores of heaven but surely perish. Which will it be for you?