

## Lost in the Fog



During the summer months, the Pacific Northwest Coast is known for quick moving areas of dense fog. If you visit any of the small towns that dot the coast during one of these fogs, you would certainly hear the low booming foghorns which almost sound like a cow mooing, but it is many times louder and deeper. The foghorns sound at regular intervals and are usually located on buoys on the open water just outside the mouths of harbors. Sometimes fog is so thick that, after it passes through, you feel as if you could wring water from your clothes.

One sunny August morning Steve Sackman and a group of friends set off near the mouth of the Quilayute River in Washington to go fishing on the Pacific Ocean in a 24 foot boat. Not long after they were on the ocean, they hooked a thirty-five pound salmon and were having a great time trying to land it on the boat when a wall of fog rolled in unexpectedly. The fog was so thick that the men couldnt see more than several yards in any direction and soon became disoriented.

The mostly uninhabited coast is dangerous in this area with lots of sea stacks, dangerous currents, and rocky islands. The fog blotted out all sight of the landmarks on shore that they used as guides. It blotted out the sight of the sun so the men had little hope the fog would soon burn off.

They had a compass on board but it seemed dreadfully insufficient to guide them through the many dangerous obstacles in the water. They might pass within several yards of a safe haven and never know it. Unfortunately in this sparsely populated region there were no fog horns to guide them to safety.

When it became apparent the fog was not just a small patch but instead a massive fog bank, Steve Sackman took the only sensible course of action. He called for help. His two-way radio was broken, and he could only receive messages and not send them. So Steve called for help on his cell phone. The 9-1-1 operator quickly put him in contact with the Coast Guard. The problem with calling on a cell phone was that the Coast Guard could not get a fix on the boats location like they could if he were calling on a two-way radio. The Coast Guard realized

that the lives of the men on the small boat were at risk and organized a large search effort to find them. They called in several boats, helicopters, and planes. One search plane even came from as far away as Northern California. They searched over a thousand square miles of sea to find the men.

For a good part of the day, and all the night, as well as the morning of the following day, the fishing boat remained lost in the fog. Early in the afternoon on the second day, a fishing boat with a much better electronic navigation system was cruising along, monitoring the Coast Guards efforts to find the lost boat, when they spotted the missing men in the boat. They were able to lead the missing boat to a Coast Guard ship which eventually brought them to safety.

A day and a half is a long time to spend lost in the fog at sea. However a great many people remain lost in a different type of fog for a lot longer than a couple of days. It seems as if a great fog bank of unbelief has rolled over the hearts and minds of many people and is blocking out the knowledge of God from their sight. Just as the fog blotted out the sight of the sun from the fishermen on the boat, so the fog of unbelief is blotting out The Sun of righteousness (who) shall arise with healing in his wings, from the hearts and minds of people. (Malachi 3:12)

The Sun of righteousness is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. His righteousness shines infinitely brighter than any other person who has ever lived. In the gospels you can read the story of his perfect life in the midst of all sorts of evil. His perfect devotedness to others even led him to the cross where he gave his life as a sacrifice for sinners.

The healing in his wings is what sinners need more desperately than anything else. His healing for our hearts begins the moment when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and receive the forgiveness of sins. This healing continues throughout this life as we walk close to the Savior. When we reach heaven, our hearts are completely healed. We will never again experience a thought or wish unholy. How great will be our joy when our hearts are completely healed and we can enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus. We can know this joy while on earth in some measure, but in heaven we will know it in a wonderful fullness. The Lord Jesus heals the heart, and it is a healing that no one should go without. Like rust to a car, moths to cloth, or rot to timber, sin has a way of destroying the heart. Because we are all sinners, we desperately need the healing Jesus Christ alone brings.

The fog of unbelief is so thick that men dont see how God is near to them. They dont see that it is God who made them, who has provided and cared for them every moment of their lives, and who now even at this very second is the one who gives them the breath to keep them alive. He giveth to all, life, breath and all things. (Acts 17:25)

Because of their unbelief they feel their lives are a closed system where God has nothing to do with them. However, nothing could be further from the truth. God dearly loves every human being. He desires that each one will share in his goodness for time and eternity. He has made a way for all persons to be saved from the guilt and power of sin. In grace he sent his Son into the world to die and wash away our sins. The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7). The blood shed on the cross washes our sins away when we believe so that we can be accounted righteous and stand justified before him.

People dont recognize that God is working in their lives, and they think that guilt is merely a psychological feeling that arises in their hearts and goes no further. But guilt is real and goes

much further. It goes all the way up to God, the supreme Judge of all. God is going to hold each member of the human race accountable for his or her sins. These sins may be done secretly in the dark, or they may be done openly before men. They may be considered disgusting sins, or they may be considered normal behavior by society at large. But, God knows them all and will bring man into judgment for each one. So then every one of us shall give account of himself before God. (Romans 12:12)

The gospel declares what God has done in the Day of Grace so that we might not have to face him in the Day of Judgment. There is no other way to escape the guilt of our sins but to come to the Savior and have those sins washed away in His blood that was shed at Calvary. If we do not come to the Lord Jesus Christ for cleansing, the guilt of our sins will prevent us forever from entering into heaven, and bring us to the place of endless suffering called hell. It is not Gods wish that anyone perish in hell but rather that all should come to repentance and faith in his Son. God deserves eternal praises for all he has done so that sinners might be saved.

Dont let the fog bank of unbelief that enwraps so many in the world keep you from coming to the Savior. God loves you and did all that was necessary to remove the guilt of your sins forever. No matter what kind of miserable things you did to others or to yourself in the past, you are entitled to have peace of heart, if you come to the Savior, because he bore your sins at the cross. If you have been wandering lost in the fog bank of unbelief, it is not too late to change. You may call out to God for help. Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans10:13)

O that your eyes might be open to see His wonderful grace and prompt you to receive the salvation which is in Jesus Christ alone.