

## Sinking of the Queen of the North Ferry



A passenger described what it felt like when the Queen of the North hit a submerged rock shortly after midnight while cruising at 17 knots an hour through Canadas Inside Passage. He said it felt like a bump, not a crash, nor a terrific jolt, but simply a bump. The seemingly insignificant encounter put a large hole in the hull of the 115 meter long ferry boat which spelled its disaster.

Immediately after the impact the ships alarm bell rang. The bell was loud, long and discordant signifying something dreadful had taken place. The captain quickly appraised the situation and gave the order to abandon the ship. He sent out a S.O.S message over the radio urgently requesting aid. Many small fishing boats from a nearby aboriginal village responded quickly providing invaluable assistance.

Efficiently, the well-trained crew helped passengers over the side of the ferry into waiting small crafts. As a final precaution, to ensure no one was being left behind, the captain ordered one of his crew to knock on the door of every sleeping compartment. Quickly the crew member went through the corridors of the ship pounding with his fist on every door. At last, satisfied, the captain with the last of the crew left the ship.

For those who become alarmed over the danger of their sinful condition, the Bible has good news. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1Tim.1.15)

He came to this earth to die and rise again to reclaim sinners to God. I came not call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Lk. 5.32) The blood he shed on the cross has such an infinite merit before God that it can wash away the darkest stains of sin. The blood of Jesus Christ, Gods Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1Jn. 1.7) He invites all men to receive cleansing and to be saved. The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2Pet.3.9)

One of the last things the captain did before abandoning the ship was to order a crewmember to knock on the doors throughout the ship. A verse in Revelations presents the

Lord Jesus as knocking too. Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door I will come into him, and sup with him and he with me. (Rev. 3.20)

Have you heard him knocking at the door of your heart? No matter what your past may have been, he wants you to open it and let him in. He wants to be your Lord and Savior and bless you for time and eternity. You may take him as your Savior by placing your faith in him, and then confessing him before men. If thou confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the grave thou shalt be saved. (Rom.10.9)

Isn't the fact that you are reading this gospel paper proof the Lord Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart? A songwriter wrote:

Behold the Savior at the door  
He gently knocks, has knocked before  
He has waited long, and is waiting still  
You use no other friend so ill

Don't let his knocking on your heart go unanswered. Don't keep him waiting but believe on his name that the gift of eternal life might be yours. And this is the record that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (1Jn. 5.11)

And he cried and said Father Abraham have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am tormented in this flame. (Lk.16.24)

Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Mt.25.41)

But the fearful, and unbelievers, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Rev. 21.8)

These verses are not meant to comfort anyone, but to sound an alarm to horrible dangers. They are the real thing. They are not a drill. They are not an idle threat that God has no power to carry out. No one may ignore them with impunity. Sadly, many seem to be spiritually comatose and cannot hear their warning. Don't be among them who think these verses couldn't possibly apply to themselves. They apply to all men outside Christ. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3.23) Since God is infinite, the consequence for all those who sin against him must be infinite too. Hence, the Bible uses the word, everlasting to describe the punishment of those who never repent. These shall go away into everlasting punishment. (Mt. 25.46) How terribly important it is for you to hear these warnings about eternal punishment and then turn to the Savior before it is forever too late.

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