
The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
westlakechurchofchrist.org

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 13, Issue 39

Evangelist and Editor:
Dempsey Collins

Oct. 14, 2012

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

“A Ship That Cannot be Sunk”

by Dempsey Collins

On April 14, 1912 at around 11:00 p.m. some 1,503 souls died within 2 ½ hours in one of the greatest tragedies in history.

- Although the great tragedy occurred 90 years ago, most people regardless of their age have heard something about the “sinking of the Titanic”.
- Countless books, television, documentaries, songs, stories and movies have been written to remind us of this great tragedy.
- No matter how many decades pass, the lessons to be learned from the sinking of the Titanic are always applicable.

I. **Pride Goes Before a Fall (Proverbs 16:18)**

The Titanic was built at the height of the industrial age. Technology was and continues to be the god of many.

- a. Man felt he could conquer anything including nature with his “brilliance”.
- b. Several passengers wrote in their diaries that they overheard people claim “even God couldn’t sink this ship.”
- c. Even if some “unlikely accident happened, her 16 watertight compartments would keep her afloat until they were rescued”.
- d. Most people believed the Titanic was “unsinkable”.
- e. This was the White Star Steamer, the grandest of them all.
- f. No safety drills were needed; all warnings of ice bergs went unheeded, after all --- she would “never sink”!
- g. Only 20 lifeboats were aboard --- about half the amount actually needed.

But on April 14, 1912 about 11:00 p.m. man’s pride once again became his downfall . . .

- a. The Titanic was four days at sea.
- b. She was speeding along entirely too fast for a ship of her tonnage.
- c. The ship’s owner wanted to set an Atlantic crossing speed record.
- d. On that moonless night at approximately 11:00 p.m., the ship’s crew spotted an iceberg the size of a small mountain dead ahead.
- e. Frantic orders were given to steer the massive liner to port (left) to avoid a collision. They succeeded.
- f. The Titanic brushed the iceberg’s underside on the starboard (right) side of the bow. The ice scraped the hull, creating an opening that was little over a ¼ inch wide, and more than 300 feet long.
- g. Nothing was detectable by anyone on board, but the damage was just enough to cause metal plates to buckle and six watertight compartments in the bow to begin filling with sea water.
- h. The “unsinkable ship” was mortally wounded and sinking rapidly.

Proverbs 16:18; 29:23; Zephaniah 3:11-12

- a. Pride prevents conversion (Matthew 18:3).

- b. The prideful are unforgiven (James 4:6; Luke 18:9-14).
- c. Love and pride cannot dwell in the same heart (I Corinthians 13:5).
- d. God hates haughty eyes (Proverbs 6:16-19).
- e. The Lord heard and punished the pride of Korah, Dathan, Uzziah, Herod, etc. and brought them low.
- f. He also hears prideful hearts today (Matthew 12:36).

II. Grim Reminder Between Trivial and Important (Matthew 6:25)

- Some 2,200 persons boarded – Southampton, England, Ireland
- People from many nations and virtually every social, economic class
- From Jacob Aster to poor immigrants seeking a new life
- Eventually, however, all learn – money means nothing facing death
- I Timothy 6:7-8 – On April 14, 1912, the 1,500 died and left this world
- Matthew 16:26 – Mr. Aster only gained a small portion, but on that April night nothing at all.
- If we are not constantly weighing priorities – we too can be caught like the fly in the strip – nice strip of goo, sweet smelling.

III. Lesson in Human Character (Romans 5:3-4)

- a. Tribulation brings out the best or worst, depending on the heart.
- b. Should bring out the best if in Christ.
- c. Eva Hart, survivor – her father chose to stay behind.
- d. Every person's true character surfaced while the Titanic was sinking.
 - 1. Only 20 lifeboats – half the amount needed
 - 2. Commander on deck – women and children first – many men and teenage boys pushed, shoved.
 - 3. Many fell to their knees in desperate hope – others cursed.
 - 4. If Christian – Philippians 1:21 At times God allows tribulation to come into our lives.
 - 5. What do trials bring out in us ... the best or worst?

IV. Only if the Lord Wills We . . . James 4:15

All 2,200 people boarded the ship with plans for the future – marriage, education, some teachers, doctors, lawyers, new businesses, new life. Whatever . . . all plans came to a sudden end April 14 at 11:00 p.m. In New York, planning was taking place for a great parade and parties . . . even while the Titanic was sinking!

V. Death Sometimes Occurs Rapidly and Unexpectedly

- a. From the time the Titanic struck ice until it sank only 2 ½ hours passed
- b. Little time for preparations now
- c. Barely enough time to say goodbye to people
- d. Barely enough time to move to higher elevation and avoid ice cold water
- e. Once in ice cold water, death came quickly

Conclusion:

Hopefully none of us will ever be in a position of knowing that in just a couple of hours we will die a horrible death. But reality is:

- 1. Someday and all too soon, we all face death and will be in God's presence.
- 2. Standing before Jesus and giving an account. He will know what mattered most in our lives.
- 3. We should not have to be on a sinking Titanic to realize what's right to do.
- 4. The 1,500 who died that April 14th . . . realized . . . but too late.
- 5. It's not too late for you and I . . . choose salvation while time is now.
- 6. Don't wait until tragedy catches you unprepared.
- 7. There are lots of Titanics in this world . . . you never know when you are getting on one.