

The Amish Voice



PO Box 128, 575 State Route 250 N, Savannah OH 44874

Office: (419) 962-1515

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Is What Jesus Did, And Said, Enough?

—Jonathan Helmuth

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

—2nd Pet.1:3-4

I have often asked the question, "What is my faith based on?"

- ◆ Is it based on the word of God?
- ◆ Is it based on some creed or belief system?
- ◆ Is it based on some man, or just because grandpa said so?
- ◆ Is it based on tradition or even in a church or particular denomination?

What is the foundation on which I am building on?

- ◆ With all the political shaking going on in the world and all the economic instability, will my faith be able to stand?
- ◆ What if persecution comes to America, will my faith stand the test?

Only God truly knows some of those answers but I can take a close look at what I

put my faith in.

- ◆ Is it truly in the person of Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross?

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, he said, "**It is finished.**" Then he hung his head and died. —John 19:30

- ◆ Was what he accomplished for you and I enough, or do we have to add something to it, in order to be saved?

som. Well Jesus paid ours. We are free from the power of Satan. He has no more dominion over us. Isn't that good news!

The Father had to watch his son go through the cruel beatings, the mocking and that cruel death on the cross so that we could be born again through faith in the sacrifice of the Lamb who was slain from the foundations of the world. Wouldn't it be an insult to God to say, "What Jesus did was not enough"?

In Hebrews 12:2 it says that we are to look to Jesus because he is the author and finisher of our faith. It is through faith in him that we can be born again. Not by our own works or all the good things we have done, but by all the good things he has done.

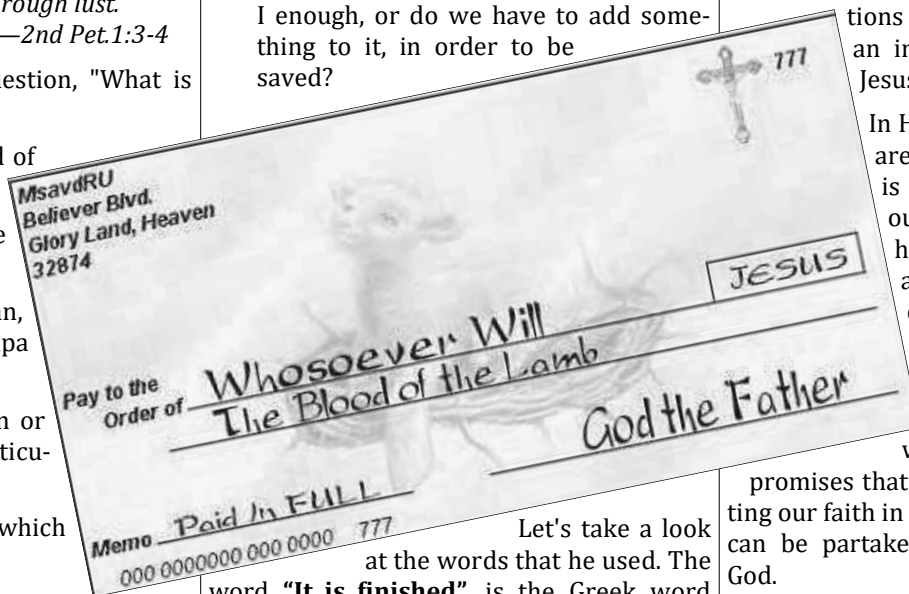
We must put our trust in what he has done and in the

promises that he gave us. For it is in putting our faith in the promises of God that we can be partakers of the divine nature of God.

One of those promises is found in Romans 10:9.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Not might be, or if you try hard enough, or



Let's take a look at the words that he used. The word "**It is finished**", is the Greek word *teleo*. It means: to complete, to perform, to fulfill, to pay in full.

Jesus paid the full price for our salvation. He paid the ransom for our captivity, our bondage. We were held captive by Satan but Jesus paid the ultimate ransom by giving his own life. A lot of times when people are kidnapped, the kidnappers will demand a ran-

maybe once you get to heaven. It is an absolute promise. We can put our faith in these words.

Also Jesus said in John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*.

◆ Do we truly believe this?

Because if we do, we have everlasting life.

A promise is only as good as the ability of the one who spoke it.

In Hebrews 7:25 it says, *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

Another promise Jesus left us, was that he would send the Holy Spirit after he ascend-

ed to the Father, which was fulfilled in Acts chapter 2.

The Holy Spirit was given to us for the very reason that Peter was referring to in the verse of our text.

According to the way I understand this verse, it is saying that the power of the Holy Spirit gives us everything we need to be able to live Godly lives.

According to Paul, this is the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead (Rom. 8:11), and he now lives inside of us. This is something that is truly amazing. It says in Zechariah that it is not by our own might or power, but by my Spirit that we are able to do anything.

It is as we fully rely on the Holy Spirit for understanding, as we read the Word of God and lean on the promises in the Word, that

we can truly be free and get to know him who has called us to glory and virtue.

Jude 1:24-25 says, *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.*

In conclusion, since the fall of humanity people have been trying to come to God through the works of their own hands (for example, Cain), which is rejected by God. Only those who come to Him by putting their faith in the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) are accepted by God, which is what Able did.

Jonathan Helmuth
4199 Old Fourteen Rd.
Dundee, NY. 14837
(607) 244-4168

Heart to Heart with Joe Keim

The following article was written and passed on to us by Henry Byler: He writes, I have noticed the last couple days that I have been heavy hearted. I have read a lot about the devastation in Japan. When I add it to the last 6 or so years, we have had so much devastation in the world. In 2004, the huge earthquake and tsunami (Indonesia & Thailand were hit hardest). The devastating earthquake in China. And a couple years ago, Katrina in New Orleans, plus we have had a lot of flooding, tornados and snow storms. And, of course the economic collapse that we have really felt hard, here in this country. Then there are also the earthquakes in Chile and New Zealand; now an epic devastation in Japan.

There are many other things that have happened; these are just off the top of my head. I find myself almost like grieving, or something. I don't even know how to put it in words. But, I know I have had a heavy heart lately, just thinking about all the suffering.

I realize that this is probably the "birth pains" that Jesus said must be before He returns; As believers, we long with great anticipation for that day. However, I am so sad, as I think about all the suffering and all the souls going into eternity without knowing the Lord. I think ALL of the above contributes to the feelings I have; surely I am mourning as if I had lost a loved one lately.

Another person wrote: Such devastation brings to mind what our Lord has said to us. As believers, we must always strive to maintain a biblical world view. Jesus said in Matthew 24:6-8, *"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."*



For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." We have seen this in Japan, Libya, and Egypt.

The fallen world will "groan" under the burden of sin. Paul said in Romans 8:22-23, *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption; the redemption of our body."* His final redemption and our resurrection; that is our eternal hope.

Remember Psalm 46:1-3, 10 says, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. In verse 10, we are called to "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."*

One way God can be "exalted" is through you and me. Matthew 5:16 tells us, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

In conclusion, let's not forget that as Christians, we already know the end of the story. Satan and the unbelieving world are going to loose, but on the other hand, God and His family of believers are going to win. May the Lord bless you richly! — Joe Keim

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What is Faith?

—Written by Levi Schwartz

Hebrews 11:1: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

The whole chapter of Hebrew 11 tells us what faith is about!

Verse 6 says: *But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

Faith is of the heart, Faith is the belief of your heart. Your belief from the heart says, do not lay your hand on a hot stove as it will cause lots of pain.

A young child has to be taught this as it is not yet in their heart. Either you teach the child or it learns by getting burned.

If we can get such a faith as this planted in our heart to move a mountain, then it can be moved!!! This is the kind of faith that pleases God.

God wants us to:

- ◆ believe things we can not see with our fleshly eyes.
- ◆ hear things we can not hear with our fleshly ears.
- ◆ smell things we can not smell with our fleshly nose.

- ◆ taste things we can not taste with our fleshly mouth.
- ◆ touch things we can not touch with our fleshly hands.

It is a believers duty to teach young Christians such FAITH.

Many times, a young believer can be saved from getting burned from the many negatives that are thrown at him/her, if they are taught the love and power of grace through faith!!!

Have you ever noticed or paid attention how sometimes you do something without your mind telling you? Your mind has trained your heart to react to certain things. Your reaction to danger often is so fast that your mind never had the chance to think about it first.

God desires us to train our hearts to react on HIM. His LOVE and POWER so that we can do what we are called to do!!!!!!!

Mark 11:22-24 says: *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith*

shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

This is only a very short explanation of faith.

Hebrews 12:2: *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Ephesians 4:13: *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

Romans 10:13: *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Ephesians 6:23: *Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Levi Schwartz
7431 Mount Gilead Rd
Fredericktown, OH 43019
(419) 560-5359

Real Faith is Crawling Into the Wheelbarrow

There was a tightrope walker, who did incredible aerial feats. All over Paris, he would do tightrope acts at tremendously scary heights. Then he had succeeding acts; he would do it blindfolded, then he would go across the tightrope, blindfolded, pushing a wheelbarrow.

An American promoter read about this in the papers and wrote a letter to the tightrope walker, saying, *'Tightrope, I don't believe you can do it, but I'm willing to make you an offer. For a very substantial sum of money, besides all your transportation fees, I would like to challenge you to do your act over Niagara Falls.'*

Now, Tightrope wrote back, "Sir, although I've never been to America and seen the Falls, I'd love to come."

Well, after a lot of promotion and setting the whole thing up, many people came to see the event. Tightrope was to start on the Canadian side and come to the American side. Drums roll, and he

comes across the rope which is suspended over the treacherous part of the falls -- blindfolded!! And he makes it across easily.

The crowds go wild, and he comes to the promoter and says,

"Well, Mr. Promoter, now do you believe I can do it?" "Well of course I do. I mean, I just saw you do it." "No," said Tightrope, "do you really believe I can do it?" "Well of course I do, you just did it." "No, no, no," said Tightrope, "do you believe I can do it?" "Yes," said Mr. Promoter, "I believe you can do it." "Good," said Tightrope, "then you get in the wheel barrow."

James 2:18

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

In other words, talk is as cheap! What this world needs, is for you and me to put actions to our words, so, unless you and I are willing to get into the wheel barrow (follow Christ, regardless of the cost), maybe we need to just keep our mouths shut.



Walking across Niagara Falls

And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. (John 6:18-19)

The Life Application Study Bible Notes offers the following comments, *The Sea of Galilee is 650 feet below sea level, 150 feet deep, and surrounded by hills. These physical features make it subject to sudden windstorms that would cause extremely high waves. Such storms were expected on this lake, but they were nevertheless frightening. When Jesus came to the disciples during a storm, walking on the water (three and a half miles from shore), he told them not to be afraid.*

We often face spiritual and emotional storms, feeling tossed about like small boats on the ocean. Despite terrifying conditions, when we trust Christ, he gives peace in the storm. The terrified disciples probably thought they saw a ghost. (Mark 6:49) Alarmed, they didn't expect Jesus to come, and weren't prepared for his help. But if they remembered all they'd seen Jesus do, they might've accepted this miracle.

Faith is an attitude of expectation for God to act. When we rest in faith, crippling fears are calmed.

What is fear? The Encarta Dictionary (North America) describes Fear in four ways:

- ◆ **A feeling of anxiety** *an unpleasant feeling of anxiety or apprehension caused by the presence or anticipation of danger.*
- ◆ **Frightening thought** *an idea, thought, or other entity that causes feelings of fear*
- ◆ **Reverence** *respect or awe for somebody or something*
- ◆ **Worry** *a concern about something that threatens to bring bad news or results*

These fears often present themselves in mixed packages similar to the disciples in our story. They expected danger, had terrifying thoughts, and worried.

When we're absorbed by unhealthy earthly emotions, fear takes over, crippling our trust in God or his Spirit to lead us through dreaded circumstances. In 2 Timothy 1:7

we read, *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* A fear-filled heart disables us and blocks God from working through us. His will for you and me is to be filled with power, love, and a sound mind.

Deuteronomy 1:22 says, *And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come.*

The spies were sent into the land to determine not *whether* they should enter, but *where* they enter. Upon returning, most of the spies concluded that the land was not worth the obstacles. God would give the Israelites power to conquer the land but they were afraid of the risk and chose not to enter. God gives us power to overcome our obstacles but, like the fear-filled Israelites, we often let difficulties overcome our lives.



How does earthly fear show itself? When faith departs, the mind sees the worst in others, communication ruptures, and the power of sin regains its grip; people separate, gossip sets in, and lies, manipulation, and unhealthy control soon shows its ugly face. I've witnessed entire churches divide due to a fear-controlled grip. At this point there's little yearning for Truth.

1 Cor 13:6 teaches, *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.*

A person who refuses to hear or seek Truth is delighting in deceit - sin. A fearful spirit drives away people from Truth and prevents them from communicating in love.

Many people dread dying, living, learning, hurting, moving, starting, stopping, working, loosing finances, and weather. They fear what could happen. Most of these things are beyond our control. Earthly fear is one of Satan's crippling and most used weapons.

Romans 8:15 says, *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear.*

Walking in earthly fear, we live in bondage but, Christ sets faith-filled believers free. Why yield to captivity when you can enjoy liberty?

Around 303 AD, the Roman actor Genesius performed a farce before Emperor Diocletian. Genesius learned about Christian baptism, not because he was a Christian but, to mock Christianity before the emperor, whose persecution was the most severe and claimed many Christian lives.

Given the emperor's hatred of Christians, Genesius lay down on the stage as if sick and confined to bed, crying out for baptism. Genesius said he felt a great weight he wanted removed. Two other actors, dressed as a priest and exorcist, came in to pour water over his head in fake baptism. But Genesius saw angels and Holy fear - reverence and awe - of the Lord came upon him. He was obedient to real baptism onstage and, with his newfound faith, proclaimed to Diocletian, "There is no other king than Jesus Christ, and even if you could kill me a thousand times you could not take Him from my lips nor tear Him from my heart." Furious, Diocletian ordered him tortured and beheaded on the spot.

A godly fear is a proper fear. It is complete submission to His rulership and control; rejecting other gods, and serving the only true God with all our heart and soul. When we have a holy fear of the Lord, we follow Him despite earthly fears. Sir Henry Havelock, British soldier and one of the heroes of the Indian Mutiny, has this epitaph, *He feared man so little, because he feared God so much.*

Do you have crippling earthly fear or faith and holy fear that sets you free?

Andy Geesey
Plain New Life Ministry
Elverson, PA 19520
(484) 638-3208

One day, when my late husband was drawing closer and closer to death, I was watching him and our son playing in the living room. Our little boy was just shy of three year's old, and he was oblivious to the inevitable future without his daddy. But I was seeing their play and hearing their laughter and watching my once healthy husband stretch out skinny arms to hold his son.

Suddenly, tears came and I had to work hard to choke back a long, heart-rending sob. I couldn't take it anymore. I couldn't sit by and watch this cruel destruction of our once happy family. I hurried from the room to hide my overwhelming emotions from both of them. I didn't want to ruin their most precious



moment. Who knew, after all, how many fun moments were left?

I went to the bedroom I shared with this wonderful husband and father and began to make the bed. I struggled to control myself, but halfway around the bed, an enormous weakness hit me at the knees and I sank to the floor. I pressed my face into the blankets to keep my cries from reaching the living room and I finally let my fears and anger out to God.

I cried over and over again "Why, Lord? I see You're going to take Jim home soon. But why? Why destroy me and my son? Don't You know how much this will hurt my little boy? Don't You know how much You're tearing my heart out? Why?" The dam broke and all the repressed emotions rushed to the surface. My heart broke in two. My spirit and courage flagged and I was a spent being.

And then, He spoke to my heart.

Dee, I know how you feel. I know. I gave up my own Son so that you will see Jim again

someday. I gave Him up so you will never say good-bye to your loved ones again."

He reminded me that His heart broke in two the day he turned His back on His own Son. The day He let His Son know sin. The day the veil was torn and all of humanity was set free for the asking. The day His Son bled. Cried. Pleaded for mercy. The day humanity mocked and flogged and pierced His Son's frail flesh. In that moment, I knew He knew my pain. That moment changed me.

At the Easter season we remember Christ's sacrifice and celebrate His resurrection, but today we can say thank you. Today we can remember that our Father knows...He knows...and He understands.

Colossians chapter 2 tells us, when you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross.

—Titanic— "Continued from Back Page"

ic's plates became brittle at icy temperatures and may have fractured after simply bumping the iceberg. Thus there was a major flaw in the construction of the steel. It should have been made more flexible, less brittle, so that it would bend and give rather than break. It has been said that the Ark was made by amateurs and the Titanic was made by experts. The difference is that the amateurs were guided by God and the experts made a fatal mistake. Hundreds of people put their trust in the engineering genius and production of man. *!Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. . . Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.*" Jeremiah 17:5,7.

4. Official inquiries determined that the Titanic was traveling too fast for the known icy conditions. The excessive speed seemed reasonable. They wanted to make good time and they believed that the ship was invincible. *!There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* Proverbs 14:12.
5. This drama of the sea illustrates the un-

certainty of life and our need to be ready to stand before our Maker and Judge. When hundreds of very wealthy people initially boarded the Titanic an imminent death was a thought that was not even entertained. We never know when God will call us to pass from time into eternity. *!And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"* Luke 12:19-20.

6. Just as the great pleasure ship struck an iceberg and sank, so also this great world, with all its inhabitants, is slowly sinking into the cold grip of death. *!And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment....For the wages of sin is death."* Hebrews 9:27 and Romans 6:23.
7. One of the problems that resulted in such loss of life was that the Titanic was poorly equipped for such a disaster. There were not enough life boats for the number of people on board. There was only enough room for relatively few to be saved. When it comes to the salvation of sinful men, there is but ONE LIFE-BOAT, none other than our Savior, the

Lord Jesus Christ. God's Lifeboat, unlike the small boats on the Titanic, has ample room for all those who recognize the great danger that they are in and who put their trust in God's only Saviour and what He did for them on the cross. Those who refuse God's one Lifeboat will perish.

I, even I, am the LORD, and beside Me there is no Savior....For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Isaiah 43:11 and John 3:16.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 1 John 5:11-12.

My friend, as you travel on life's journey, it is possible for you to know for sure that you will arrive safely on eternity's shore. Your *decision* now will determine your future *destiny*. God has provided the perfect LIFEBOAT for you.

This article was adapted from two gospel tracts:
 1) *The Titanic Encounter* by George Genes, The Tract League, 2627 Elmridge Dr., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544-1390, Tract #244; 2) *Titanic Tragedy* by Erik Hollander, Living Waters, Box 1172, Bellflower, CA 90706, Tract #242



When you get born again by surrendering your life and asking Jesus to live in your heart, can you now go and live any way you want to?

This question has been around as long as Christianity has. Paul dealt with it in Romans chapter 6. To really understand what is being said, it is best to read the entire chapter. Have a look at verse 6;

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

When you ponder what happens when a person apparently receives Christ into their life, has their sins wiped clean, life seems to be renewed for a while only to see the person eventually return to their former life. Doing anything they want. What has gone wrong? It seems such a waste to have put so much effort into getting clean and then it is all tossed aside.

The scripture passage above refers to dying with Christ. You may wonder, what has dying to self have to do with falling away from a commitment? Let me try to explain.

Suppose you had just bought a 12 acre field from your neighbor. It is good soil, but it is full of weeds. You mow the entire field, rake up the weeds, clear the brush and burn them. Now you clear the

fence rows and till the field. Then you plant beans. It looks really good. After a few weeks the weeds are back as strong as ever. What is wrong? It seems there is a factory just pushing forth weeds faster than you can hoe.

Well, so it is with human beings. If our sins are forgiven and the “old man” as Paul puts it is still alive and well, we will have what looks good for a while. Then pressure of life comes back and sin once again takes over. There seems to be a ‘sin factory’ at work producing its terrible fruit. There has to be a solution. The solution is to put the “old man” to death. In fact, we do not do the “putting” to death of the old me. God does it when I recognize the need. The “new man” is what is often called the new birth. A new set of desires emerge that look to serve my Lord. When we are baptized into Jesus Christ, we are in fact baptized into his death. Verse 3 says;

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were

baptized into his death?

The solution is death! A dead person cannot sin any more.

In his book “The Normal Christian Life”, Watchman Nee compares the situation to a government deciding to dry the country by dumping all the alcoholic drinks, but failing to shut down the factory that produces it. You would be so quickly defeated. Likewise, God foresaw human nature and provided a way (in fact, the only way to defeat sin).

You can make the consequences of sin terrible. Enforce the law. Embarrass them to no end. And you will find, it is not going to work. If it would’ve worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to go to the cross and die. Jesus did not just provide part of a solution, he provided it all. If your “old man” is still alive, you never had a “new man” either.

Just last week, I spoke to a new believer and asked him if he felt he could now live his life any way he wanted to. He told me he now had a new set of desires and now loves to meet with people who study the Bible.

Yes, the “old man” is dead. The old sin factory is shut down, and although we may sin on occasion, we now want to confess and get right again. As we grow, then sin should become less of an issue in our life.

So my question; is the “old you” really dead?

*Eli Stutzman — Ontario Canada
Phone: (519) 866-3737*

Reflections of a Mother

—Author Unknown

1. I gave you life, but cannot live it for you
2. I can teach you right from wrong but I cannot always decide for you
3. I can take you to church but I cannot make you believe
4. I can make you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you beautiful inside
5. I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you
6. I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you
7. I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish
8. I can teach you to respect, but I cannot force you to show honor



9. I can advise you about friends, but I cannot choose them for you
10. I can teach you the facts of life, but I cannot keep you pure
11. I can tell you about alcohol and drugs, but I can't say No for you
12. I can tell you about lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for you
13. I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you to be gracious
14. I can teach you about Jesus, but I can't make Jesus your Lord and Savior
15. I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God

Our physical heart is responsible for pumping life-sustaining blood to the body. The blood contains nutrients (food) and oxygen that the body must have to live. Even though it is a small organ, about the size of a man’s hand, it pushes blood along a 60,000-mile-long network of vessels! These vessels are like straws that the blood flows through. Some are large and others are not much bigger than a human hair. As long as we are alive the heart beats. Even more amazing is that it beats about 100,000 times a day, 40 million times a year—in total, beating up to three billion times over an average lifetime. It keeps the body freshly supplied with oxygen and nutrients, while clearing away harmful waste matter.

The heart is located in the middle of the chest, behind the breastbone and between the lungs, in a moistened chamber that is protected all around by the rib cage. It's made up of a special kind of muscle (cardiac muscle) that works involuntarily, so we don't have to think about it. We call it involuntary, but it does have to be told to beat by electrical signals that are sent from the brain to a chamber called the “sinus node”. The signal then goes from the sinus node to the heart and it beats. All this happens without us thinking about it, so we call it involuntary. If a signal is sent from the brain to the sinus node and the sinus node does not send the signal, the heart will not beat and the person will die.

The heart speeds up or slows down automatically in response to nerve signals from the brain that tell it how hard the body is being used. That is why people can die of a heart attack if they suddenly work much harder than normal. One of two things can go wrong. The heart cannot

pump enough blood quickly and the body is damaged or the heart muscle itself is overworked and stops. Either thing can cause us to die. Normally the heart speeds up and slows down between 70 and 80 beats per minute, each heartbeat filling the four chambers inside with a fresh round of blood.

There are two separate pumps on each side of the heart, which are divided by a wall of muscle called the septum. The upper chamber on each side is called the **atrium**. This is connected by a sealing valve to the larger, more powerful lower chamber, or **ventricle**. The left ventricle pumps most forcefully, which is why a person's heartbeat is felt more on the left side of the chest.

When the heart contracts (or beats inward) the chambers become smaller, forcing blood first out of the atria into the ventricles, then from each ventricle into a large blood vessel connected to the top of the heart. These vessels are the two main arteries (or straws as we said earlier). One



of them, the pulmonary artery, takes blood to the lungs where it picks up oxygen. The other, the aorta, transports freshly oxygenated

blood (blood that is full of fresh oxygen) to the rest of the body. The vessels that bring blood to the heart are the veins. The two main veins that connect to the heart are called the vena and cava.

Since the heart is at the center of the blood delivery system, it is also central to life. Blood takes oxygen from the lungs to the other organs and tissues and removes carbon dioxide from the lungs, where the gas is breathed out. Blood also shares nourishment (food) from the digestive system and other parts of the body. Likewise our immune system cells (these are cells that attack and kill anything that is poisonous to our body) travel in the bloodstream, looking for infection. Blood also takes the body's waste products to the kidneys and liver to be sorted out and trashed.

Heart disease has gone up over the last century, due largely to changes in diet and lifestyle. It has become the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States, claiming almost 700,000 lives a year, or 29 percent of the annual total. Worldwide, 7.2 million people die from heart disease every year.

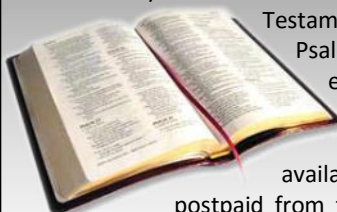
While our physical heart is important, our spiritual “heart” is even more important. Romans 10:9-10 says: *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

Just as we know our physical “heart” is beating by the fact we are alive, we can know our spiritual “heart” is alive by trusting in God’s Word.

*Robert McCallum
Savannah OH, (419) 962-1515*

Pennsylvania Deitsh Testament

If you would like to obtain a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in Pennsylvania Deitsh, they are available for \$13.95 postpaid from the **Committee for Translation, 3864 Township Road 162, Sugarcreek, OH 44681. Phone 330-852-4663.**

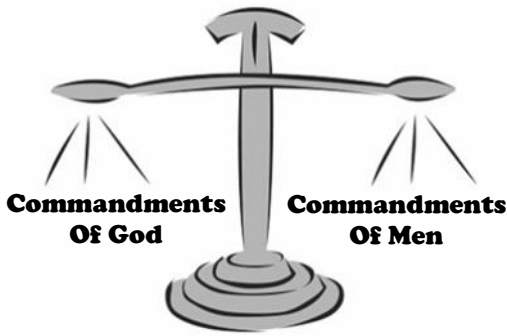


You do not need to send money ahead of time; they will bill you with your order. Your local Christian bookstore may also have them available.

In making this translation, the committee’s purpose was two-fold: 1) to adhere as closely as possible to the Textus Receptus Greek text, which is closely associated with Luther’s (German) and the Authorized (English) version, the two versions most commonly in use by the Amish, and 2) to make the translation in fluent

everyday Pennsylvania Deitsh as it is spoken in the home.

The translation procedures and principles used in this translation are basically those employed by the Wycliffe Bible Translators, and the exegesis closely follows their series of in-house “Exegetical Helps”. The final manuscript was checked for exegetical accuracy by New Testament Greek specialists from the Translation Department of the Wycliffe Bible Translators.



The following letter is in response to the article labeled Excommunication and Shunning, January 2011 issue.

Dear Fellow Pilgrim, greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Have often been tempted to write to you and just kept putting it off. You write many good articles and just received your last writing a few days ago.

After reading your article on excommunication and shunning, I was moved to write. For the most part I am agreed with your view. I do have some questions. Do you belong to a church that has no guide lines or anything that you can't read in the New Testament?

Joe Responds: I have been part of the same church for 24 years. And in that time, I have seen God do many wonderful things in the Body of Christ.

During those same years, I have also, at times, looked on as Satan caused havoc among God's family members. In each situation, the church leaders had to step in and use church discipline, as outlined in various parts of the New Testament.

Yes, we have guidelines that we follow very closely. No, they aren't written on paper as some might expect; they are listed throughout the New Testament. The following are some areas of which I speak of:

- ◆ Galatians chapter 5:19-21
- ◆ Colossians 3:5-9
- ◆ 1 Corinthians chapter 5

At times, when the Scriptures are not as black and white as we wish they were, and when something comes up that Scripture does not deal with directly, we try to use prayer and 14th chapter of Romans as our guide.

Illinois Reader Writes: Would be curious to know, when Achan stole the Gold and Silver shekels, he done so without any of the Israelites knowing. You say, because of this, God blamed everyone and was angry at everyone. In your next paragraph you wonder how many innocent church members are suffering severe consequences because nothing is being done to purge out the sin that has sprung up among us today. Are you saying if we have one member in our church with a hidden sin that we don't know about then the whole church is condemned? (hope not)

If this were the case, then what church would we feel comfortable in? Maybe I misunderstood your reason for mentioning Achan and how God dealt with them. If you didn't mean to say these examples apply to us today then what was the reason for giving them. Am not sure I am understanding what you meant to say.

Joe Responds: Yes, I have to believe if there is un-confessed sin within the camp (church body), and the leaders

and lay members turn a blind eye toward that sin, it is very possible that it could devastate the whole body.

The reason I believe that is because of what is recorded in the following areas of the New Testament:

In Luke 12:1, Jesus said: *"...Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."*

Before we discuss the *"leaven of the Pharisees"*, let's consider what **leaven** is and does. **Leaven** is simply another word for yeast, and if you know much about yeast, you will understand that a very small amount of yeast, added to bread dough, will quickly spread throughout the whole dough and cause it to rise.

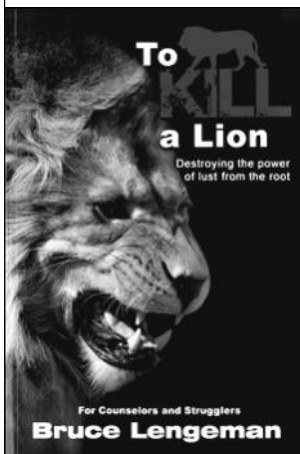
Consider Jesus' ongoing conversation in Luke chapter 12, as He further explains **leaven**. Verse 21 says: *"It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."*

The Pharisees believed in a personal God and in the Scripture as God's Word to man, but they added to God's Word. Or in this case, we might say, "they added some of their own leaven (man-made rules and regulations) to God's Word.

In the case of the Pharisees, this led to three gross errors.

1. It led people to think that their good behavior and their religious rituals and ceremonies made them acceptable to God. A religion of good works—of trying to do enough good

Continued next page →



To Kill a Lion

Destroying the Power of Lust From the Root

This is a new book by Bruce Lengeman designed to help men find the roots of their sexual addiction. The theme is "Men cry out, I know it is wrong, but why can't I stop!" The book is for both counselors and strugglers. *To Kill a Lion* will help men understand their own sexuality, and what makes it operate "out of alignment" with God's design. You'll learn why it is healthy to be sexual as a man, but in a pure and Godly way. Though this book was not written for women, many are reading it and getting understanding of things they never knew about sexuality.

To order, either call the MAP ministry at (419) 962-1515 or mail a check to "The Amish Voice, PO Box 128, Savannah OH 44874

The price of the book is \$17 (includes S&H)

to become acceptable to God—was being depended upon for righteousness.

2. It led to a religion of external religion. In other words, if a person was respected by his or her lifestyle, and did all the right things, then s/he was judged acceptable to God.
3. It led to an attitude of self-righteousness. If a person kept the rules and regulations, he naturally felt righteous and sometimes demonstrated it. There was a dependence upon himself, upon keeping the right rules and thereby becoming righteous.

There are other places in the New Testament that tell us how a little leaven, left unattended, brings harm on the whole body. For example, take 1 Corinthians chapter 5, where Paul shares about the young man that was in a sexual relationship with his father's wife. And rather than mourn, the church became puffed up.

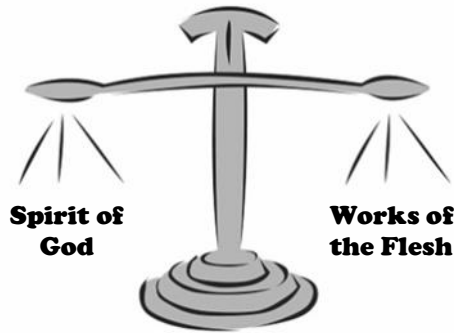
In verse 6-7, God's Word tells us: "...Know ye not that a little **leaven leaveneth** the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old **leaven**, that ye may be a new lump...

I would like to bring out one more instance in Scripture where God clearly illustrates the devastating results of NOT dealing with leaven (sin) in the camp.

Consider the following: The Church at Galatia, had at one time, clearly understood that Christian liberty could only be received through faith in Christ; not anything man could do on his own. However, as time went by, many of the church members began to fall back into the same bondage they had been saved from—bondage of believing that in order to be completely saved from sin and hell, a person had to continue to follow parts of the law. That's when Paul began to make statements like the following:

Galatians 1:6 *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:*

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but*



by the faith of Jesus Christ, ... for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:1-3 *O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh (man-made rules)?*

Galatians 3:10-11 *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

Galatians 3:23-25 *But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

Can someone say AMEN to those Scriptures! Aren't you glad we are on the side of the fence called "Faith, Grace and Liberty" and not on the side of the fence called "Law, Regulations and Bondage"? Ok, let's continue reading the various statements that Paul made to the members of the Galatian Church.

Galatians 4:9 *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*

Galatians 5:1 *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with*

the yoke of bondage.

And finally, Paul comes toward the end of his letter (middle of chapter 5) and he points to the people who have allowed the law and bondage to creep back in the church. He is clear, if you don't stop this corrupt teaching, it is going to act as leaven that leaveneth the whole church. Look at the Scripture:

Galatians 5:9, A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Most of us, including myself, underestimate the devastating affects that man-made rules can have on God's grace. Here is why: When you and I come up with our own standards, we tend to put our trust in us, rather than God. We also tend to measure other people by our standards, rather than using God's standards. And in Galatians 5:9 (the verse we just read), we are all reminded, it only takes a little leaven to affect the whole lump. In fact, right before we read "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" Paul wrote:

Galatians 5:4, Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Illinois Reader Writes: I am a member of the Old Order Amish church. Became a member when I was 18 years old. Yes, our church is not perfect, but have seen many improvements in spiritual issues over the past 50 years. I have no desire to hinder any ones spiritual condition and have no intentions of making insulting remarks but am thinking of hopefully being a help one to another.

On page 3 of your last mailing, in the center column, you say over the years there have been some extreme cases where certain members in the churches have taken their own lives because they saw no way out of their emotional and mental misery. Their thinking has been described in the following ways: Then you use two paragraphs to describe what they think that causes them to take their own lives.

Question: Have any of these people that you personally knew told you or anyone else that you know that they are going to end their own life because they were in such a situation? If not then, by what other

Continued next page →

means of knowledge would you feel comfortable to put those statements in print?

Joe Responds: I can't say that I have been closely related to those who have taken their own lives for the reasons I shared, but I can say this; I have attended their funerals, talked with their families and even taken groceries over the family members who were now all of a sudden without a father or husband to lean on. In fact, just a few years ago, three adults within the same community, took their lives within a two week period. This happened in Dundee OH.

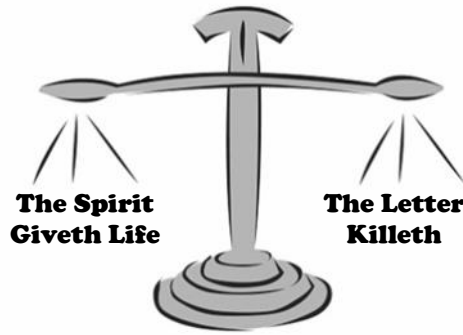
In the past year, three single (Amish) people have come to our ministry for help. Each one of them had tried to take their life at least 2-3 times and failed. And I might add that one of them has been living in our home since January of this year. And on many occasions, our family will hear this single girl singing away, even at the midnight hour. You might ask, how can this be? And the answer is, because someone told her about Jesus and the payment He made for her sins 2000 years ago. Once she fully understood the reason Jesus came and died for her, she cried out to Him for salvation and He saved her; it changed her life.

Romans 5:1-2 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Illinois Reader Writes: It is very obvious that you grew up in an Amish Schwartzentruber setting by the remarks you make about the man-made rules and some of the things you mention concerning the ordnung, like: denim suspenders, standup collars, etc. you name quite a few things that never were a part of our ordnung.

I get the picture that because of the situation you grew up in, you put all the Amish in the same category. Our man-made rules will not buy us a ticket to Heaven. If Amish churches are going to survive, then there will always be guidelines or man-made rules as you call them.

Joe Responds: I was born and raised in an Old Order church in Ashland OH. And



yes, our guidelines were fairly strict, just a notch above Schwartzentruber.

I try not to put all Amish people in the same category, but as you suggested, because of my upbringing, I have a tendency to write according to the standards I was raised under. I should also point out that the Amish Voice goes to many different sects of Amish that range from Schwartzentruber to Beachy, and sometimes it is hard to know how to be fair in my thoughts and writings.

Sometimes, I get letters from people who receive the Amish Voice, telling me that I come across as hateful. To those of you who feel that way, I apologize for sounding that way. Anyone who knows me, knows that I have a great love for my people and feel most at home when I am amongst them.

I appreciate the statement you made above, "Our man-made rules will not buy us a ticket to Heaven". You understand a God-given truth that not every Amish adult understands. And for that reason, I often speak to the one who may not yet have had his or her eyes opened to God's grace, as given to us in Eph 2:8-9.

You also said "If Amish churches are going to survive, then there will always be guidelines or man-made rules as you call them." Yes, I agree with you. If you pulled the man-made rules out from under the Amish church and made them unimportant, the culture would collapse.

I have an understanding why the rules have been placed there; *men have put them there in order that their members might be protected from ungodliness.* However, consider the following, along with that seemingly good idea:

1. Man-made rules have a natural

tendency to make the Spirit of God non-affect. They (rules) also have a great tendency to *cover up* God's simple plan of salvation. Consider the following Scriptures in light of what I just shared:

Romans 2:29 says: *...circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter (laws and regulations); whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

God's true people are the people who have been circumcised spiritually—in the heart; not in the letter of the law.

Consider another reason why man-made rules and regulations in the church might be harmful:

2 Corinthians 3:6 says, *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

Question: How many rules and regulations will it take to cripple, or even worse, snuff out the Spirit?

2. Man-made rules in the New Testament are always condemned, rather than approved.

Colossians 2:6-8 says: *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith... Beware lest any man spoil you ... after the tradition of men...and not after Christ.*

Colossians 2:14, [Jesus] *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

In my opinion, it is one thing for individuals to have guidelines and rules; it is another thing for the church to pass out restrictions and regulations.

Consider the following Scripture:

Romans 14:13-15 says, *Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.*

Continued next page →

I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

Illinois Reader Writes: Summing up why I felt like writing was: Like I mentioned before, you do write some good articles. It is disappointing to me that you understand scripture the way you do and yet you don't seem to be able to keep from discrediting the Amish church. In most of your writings you somehow seem to be able to mix your good thoughts with your negative thoughts against the Amish church.

We could sure stand improvement, couldn't we all. In your last letter you even went after Jacob Ammon. I am not in a position to dispute what you wrote about him, but I never knew so many counts against him. Again I took it to show us what kind of leader and founder of our faith we are following.

I heard John Coblenz say that if you counsel people who are needing help because of depression or stress then usually they seem to be traveling in the right ditch because they are so opposed of the ones that are in the left ditch. Let's be careful, you and me both.

Joe Responds: I appreciate your chal-

lenge to me. I will try to be more sensitive and not come across as if I was angry at the Amish Church. In reality, I believe that of all people groups, the Amish have some of the greatest values of any culture.

I would like to say, "If I was allowed to choose which culture I wanted to be born and raised in, I would pick the Amish culture (church) without even thinking twice. But when it comes to knowing how to be born again, I would, in most cases, have to find another culture (church) to explain the new birth to me.

Illinois Reader Writes: Back to the man-made rules. If our heritage has no value to us, then our church ordnung seems to be a burden, and if those guidelines feel like a restriction, then also people tend to become dissatisfied and start looking for something a little easier. If this is the case then sometimes when they get literature like you are sending, some will leave the church because this seems like the easy way to go. Sometimes they will only be happy at the new setting for so long, then they move on to more liberal church, and I know of some that have gone this route and have moved to the 3rd or 4th different setting and don't seem to know what they want.

Joe Responds: I understand what you are saying. And I have to agree with you, it is always very saddening to watch this happen. However, keep in mind that just

because some follow that route, does not mean that all will follow that route.

Illinois Reader Writes: In our community the ones that leave the Amish church are people who are dissatisfied. You don't get our faithful members even though I realize we need to keep working to better our church weakness. I have no desire to belong to another church.

I am not one that thinks you have to be Amish to get to Heaven either. I have English friends, who I believe are born again Christians. I probably have as much struggle as you do with the idea that the more backward we live the more God will bless us. I don't think that's how it works.

Joe Responds: Well said, my dear brother in the Faith. May the Lord continue to bless you richly, as you follow His Spirit. Truly, you understand the Truth of God and belong to His family. Thank you for sharing your challenging thoughts and powerful testimony.

Illinois Reader Writes: Will close this letter in saying I hope this letter is not so offensive to you that you won't give it some consideration and maybe benefit from it to the extent to where your feelings might improve towards the Amish church. I doubt that you have any interest in putting this letter in your paper, but if you should just sign me an Illinois reader.

Pray for us, we are like minded,
Sincerely, an Illinois Reader

— The End —

Four Inch Hat

When I was young and full of pep
I often made a crooked step
But now I am old and my head looks flat
Because I wear a 4 inch hat
But now if I am honest and true
That 4 inch hat will surely do
But should I tell a lie at that
What good would do my 4 inch hat

An Amish church split was caused because half wanted 4in hat brim and other half wanted 3¼ in hat brim. Church that left with 4in hat brim, 1 year later went with the 3¼ in brim.

True story, written by Andrew Wengerd on the barn wall.

Andrew Wengerd was the father of Dan Wengerd and Grandfather of Loren Wengerd. —Holmes County

Lord of Glory

Lord you are my Glory
Through the awful darkness
Lord you are my Light
When the way is as night

Lord you are my strength
When mine has melted as wax
Lord you are my strong tower
When the rain is as a shower

Lord you are my comfort
When I'm beaten and battered
Lord you are my everlasting hope
When the lies of Satan seem as a rope

Lord you are truly my King
To you honor and praises I bring
Life here below does trouble bear
But for all eternity a crown I'll wear

—Cindy Miller, Tennessee



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Current Resident

The Titanic

We all know the story. The Titanic, a British passenger liner, struck an iceberg off Newfoundland on the night of April 14-15, 1912, and sank. It was a tragedy of enormous proportions.

What a splendid ship! Everything a ship designer could imagine was built into it. It was beautiful, magnificent, TITANIC!

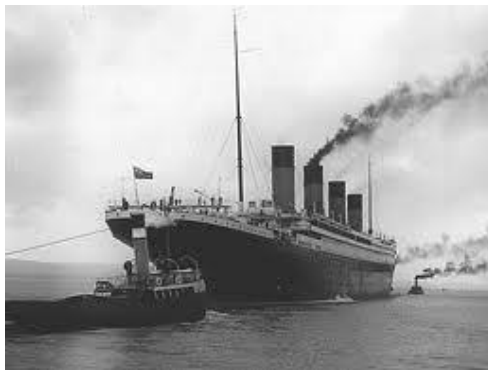
It slid out to sea from Liverpool, England, on a serene April morning. Gleaming against the sky, it was majestic. The pride of Britannia rode out to sea. New York was its next harbor.

The notables of society were its passengers and they basked in the splendor of its luxury. Elegance was the word for Titanic's interior. Lavish in its decor, menus, and entertainment, it surpassed the highest expectations of its passengers.

Three-quarters into its maiden voyage-on the fringe of Newfoundland's frigid banks-the Titanic became a catastrophic nightmare. A deceptively large iceberg, detached from the polar ice fields, was drifting into the North Atlantic shipping lanes, destined to keep a predetermined encounter with the fabulous Titanic.

Within two hours, before the dawn of April 15, 1912, the unsinkable Titanic

plunged to its death four miles below the icy surface, taking with it more than 1500 souls (including most of the crew) and all its treasure.



In 1898, 14 years before the Titanic made her maiden voyage, Morgan Robertson published a fictitious book entitled, *FUTILITY: The Wreck of the Titan*. This was the story of an "unsinkable" massive ocean liner, which like the Titanic, was crossing the Atlantic Ocean (traveling from America to England) in that same month of April, with 3,000 people on board. Trying to cross the ocean in record time, it too struck an iceberg (near midnight) and sank. Not only were the ships' names very similar, but most on board also perished

simply because there was a lack of lifeboats (only 13 survived).

But most remarkable of all, the story of the Titanic has incredibly close parallels to the Biblical plan of salvation as the following points illustrate:

1. "Not even God could sink the Titanic," was the boast of those who put their confidence in a ship built by men. Today we also have the deadly tendency to have excessive pride in our own resources. "As we travel through life, who really needs God anyway? I can make it on my own." *!Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.* Proverbs 16:18.
2. Even when the Titanic struck the iceberg, the crew and passengers were confident that the "small" iceberg could do little damage. We also are deceived into thinking that sin is minor and of little consequence. *!Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* Gal 6:7.
3. Especially following the underwater discovery of the sunken Titanic, maritime experts have suggested that the structural steel then in use in the Titan-

Continued on Page 5 —>