# SINKING SHIPS

As incredible as it seems to us today, can you imagine being one of the 2,208 passengers on board the RMS *TITANIC* on April 14, 1912 and being told to abandon ship? The greatest ocean liner in the world had struck a large iceberg and was taking on water. The officers were frantically trying to persuade the passengers to get into the 65-person rubber boats to be lowered 60 feet into the freezing dark waters of the Atlantic. Many of the people refused to leave the lighted and spacious ship to be taken into the cold ocean, even though it was their only salvation. Many had been convinced of the *indestructible* and *unsinkable* advertisements by the White Star Line brochures.

When the call for “abandon ship” was heard and the first lifeboat was lowered, it only had 24 women and 2 children on it with 39 empty seats! Amazing. Two hours later the ship plunged out of sight. A large number of the 1,503 souls that perished that day were still onboard. So many died needlessly.

Seeking security in a sinking ship makes no sense. But that is nothing compared to the billions today who are taking refuge in a world that is doomed to be burned into nothingness!

***“The heavens will pass away with great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up”*** (2 Peter 3:10).

Read Peter’s inspired prophecy (i.e. it’s really going to happen – God said so) of the last day of planet earth. Great noise… fervent heat… burned up… describe the heavens, the earth, and all the earth’s works (achievements of men). There will be nothing but a smoldering puff of smoke, then suddenly it will be as dark as coal. The entire universe will become a black hole which vanishes into absolute nothing!

The same God who saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego from Nebuchadnezzar’s furnace of fire can save you from earth’s final furnace (Daniel 3). But you have to have their kind of faith to come through that fire unsinged with not even a smell of smoke on you. Do you remember what they said when the king threatened them? "*O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king*.” (Dan. 3:16-17).

I wish I had said that.

But then again, facing the fires of hell will make Nebuchadnezzar’s furnace seem like a lukewarm sauna by comparison. Jesus’ description that is repeated three times has always made my blood run cold. Please, listen to the only One who really knows what hell is like:

*42 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. 43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 44 where Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’
45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 46 where Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’
47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— 48 where Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’* (Mark 9:42-48).

God is saying to each of us today, “I am able to deliver you from the burning fiery furnace, but you must trust me with obedient faith.”

Jesus has called the world to “ABANDON SHIP!” Get out of the world’s insecure and doomed ship and get into the Lord’s lifeboat. “*He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. He that does not believe will be damned*” (Mk. 16:16).

Make no mistake about it, this world is just another RMS *Titanic* that will sink. Do not be so foolish as to believe you are secure holding on to the things of a planet destined to God’s fire. Become a Christian today. Then, become an on-fire Christian by reaching out to a dying, drowning, burning mankind who needs saving.

**Rick**