**THE UNSINKABLE TITANIC**

***Abandon Ship!***

As incredible as it seems to us today, can you imagine being one of the 2,200 passengers on board the *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 dark Ocean, even though it was their only salvation.

The first boat lowered only had 24 women and 2 children on it with 39 seats empty! Think about that. There were only 16 lifeboats and 4 Engelhardt “collapsibles” on board, which could only hold 1,178 people combined (remember, the *Titanic* could actually hold 3,300 passengers and crew, thus only 33% could be saved at maximum capacity – which would never pass safety protocol today). But the maiden voyage of this “wonder of the world” had been filled with the rich and famous, including high-ranking officials, wealthy industrialists, dignitaries and celebrities. J. Bruce Ismay was the managing director of White Star Line (the builder of the ship), Thomas Andrews (the ship’s architect and builder), John Jacob Astor IV (one of the wealthiest men in the world), Benjamin Guggenheim (also among the world’s richest men), Molly Brown (who gained fame as “the unsinkable Molly Brown” due to her heroism helping to load passengers before it sank), Isidor Straus (owner of Macy’s department stores). J. P. Morgan, the richest man in the world, was scheduled to be on the ship but was delayed at the last minute due to business and thus saved his life.

Three hours after it had struck the iceberg the ship plunged out of sight. There were only 706 survivors out of the 2,200 passengers. Over 1,500 “souls” (a term used by both airlines and ships to this very day to describe passengers) perished in those dark icy waters. But let’s return to the Captain’s call to “Abandon Ship!” Most of these wealthy celebrities refused to jump into the lifeboats to be saved. 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 (meaning 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). Nothing but a smoldering puff of smoke, then suddenly it’s all dark as coal. The entire universe is nothing but a black hole which vanishes into absolute oblivion.

The same God who saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego 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. They said: "*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*.” (Daniel 3:16-17).

Wow! I wish I had said that. But then again, facing the fires of hell will make even Nebuchadnezzar’s furnace seem like a lukewarm sauna by comparison. God is saying to each of us right now, today, “I am able to deliver you from the burning fiery furnace, but you must trust me with obedient faith.”

By delaying obedience to the gospel is like seeking security on the *Titanic*. When you know the ship is listing starboard and the Captain has rung the bell and announced over the loudspeaker – “Abandon Ship!” – and you refuse to enter the lifeboat, you have no one but yourself to blame when you drown. You have been warned.

Here is the Captain of the U.S.S. Salvation announcing the present crisis you now face:

*“when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”* (2 Thess. 1:6-9).

Make no mistake about it, this world is just another *Titanic* that will sink. Do not be so foolish as to believe you are secure holding on to “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.

For the love of your soul – Abandon Ship! Get in the lifeboat! - Rick