

BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

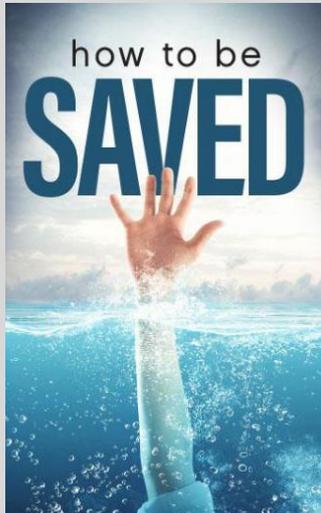
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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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Imagine a swimmer who has gone out into deep water and is drowning. She cries to the lifeguard to save her. The lifeguard rushes to where she is, picks her up in her helpless condition and takes her to shore. The lifeguard has saved her from drowning.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

Or, imagine a man who is trapped in a burning building and is quickly being overcome by smoke. He sees a firefighter coming toward him and cries out for help. The firefighter picks him up in his helpless condition and takes him out of the building. The firefighter has saved him from perishing in the fire.

In the same way, God has provided a Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is able to rescue every sinner who trusts in Him. No matter what you've done, He can save you!

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

WHY WE NEED TO BE SAVED

Because of our rebellion against God, you and I are in danger of eternal separation from Him. This separation will mean being banished from the presence of God, who is the source of all good (James 1:17).

It will also mean eternal punishment as we suffer the consequences of our sin.

The Bible says:

- *All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*
- *The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)*
- *It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)*
- *Whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)*

WHAT THE SAVIOUR HAS DONE

The Lord Jesus Christ became the Saviour of sinners (that includes you and me) by coming down from Heaven and dying on the cross for our sins. God raised Him from the dead, and He is now a living Saviour at God's right hand in Heaven (Hebrews 1:3).

- *God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*
- *Christ died for our sins ... was buried, and ... rose again the third day. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)*
- *Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)*

HOW YOU CAN BE SAVED

The only way for us to be saved from our sins (and their punishment), is to turn to God in repentance and place our faith in Jesus Christ. To repent is to realize and acknowledge that we are in serious trouble, just like a drowning swimmer.

To place our faith in the Lord Jesus as Saviour is to believe that He fully paid the price of our forgiveness and cleansing by bearing our sins in His own body on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). The Lord Jesus will save you the moment you trust your full weight of sin to Him.

No good works of ours, or anything else we can do, can possibly put one of our countless sins away. The only thing that we can do (the only thing God will accept) is to place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting Him to save us.

- By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**
- He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. **(John 5:24)**

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. **(Romans 10:9-10)** *Moments with the Book*



PETER IN THE STORM



And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled...Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, **HE CRIED SAYING, LORD, SAVE ME.** And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? **(Matthew 14: 26-31)**

- ✚ He knew he *needed saved*
- ✚ He knew he *couldn't save himself*
- ✚ He knew *the disciples couldn't save him*
- ✚ He knew *who could save him*
- ✚ He knew *how he could be saved*
- ✚ He knew *he wanted saved*
- ✚ He knew *he wanted saved now*



SAVED OR LOST



It is over 100 years since Titanic, the greatest ship of its time, sank on its maiden voyage, killing more than 1,500 passengers. The "unsinkable ship" had done just that, and on the tragedy's centennial we stand captivated by the story. Many movies, documentaries and books have familiarized us with some of the passengers, such as entrepreneur John Jacob Astor IV or the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown. Yet one of the supreme stories of the Titanic involves a heroic pastor and his passion to save lives and souls.



When pastor and preacher John Harper and six-year-old daughter boarded the Titanic, it was for the privilege of preaching at one of the greatest churches in America, Moody Church in Chicago, named for its famous founder Dwight L. Moody.

The church was anxiously awaiting his arrival not only because of the pending services, but to meet their next pastor, as Harper planned to accept their invitation.

Harper was known as an engaging preacher and had pastored two churches in Glasgow and London.

His preaching style was suited for an evangelist as testified by the words of another local pastor.

"He was a great open-air preacher and could always command large and appreciative audiences. ... He could deal with all kinds of interrupters, his great and intelligent grasp of Bible truths enabling him to successfully combat all assailants."

When the Titanic hit the iceberg, Harper successfully led his daughter to a lifeboat. Being a widower, he may have been allowed to join her but instead forsook his own rescue, choosing to provide the masses with one more chance to know Christ. Harper ran person to person, passionately telling others about Christ. As the water began to submerge the "unsinkable" ship, Harper was heard shouting, "women, children, and the unsaved into the lifeboats." Rebuffed by a certain man at the offer of salvation Harper gave him his own life vest, saying, "you need this more than I do." Up until the last moment on the ship Harper pleaded with people to give their lives to Christ.

The ship disappeared beneath the deep frigid waters leaving hundreds floundering in its wake with no realistic chance for rescue. Harper struggled through hyperthermia to swim to as many people as he could, still sharing the Gospel. Harper evidentially would lose his battle with hypothermia but not before giving many people one last glorious Gospel witness.

Four years after the tragedy at a Titanic survivor's meeting in Ontario, Canada, one survivor recounted his interaction with Harper in the middle of the icy waters of the Atlantic. He testified he was clinging to ship debris when Harper swam up to him, twice challenging him with a biblical invitation to "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." He rejected the offer once. Yet given the second chance and with miles of water beneath his feet, the man gave his life to Christ. Then as Harper succumbed to his watery grave, this new believer was rescued by a returning lifeboat. As he concluded his remarks at the Ontario meeting of survivors he simply stated, "I am the last convert of John Harper."

When the Titanic set sail there were delineations of three classes of passengers. Yet immediately after the tragedy, the White Star Line in Liverpool, England placed a board outside its office with only two classes of passengers reading, KNOWN TO BE SAVED and KNOWN TO BE LOST. The owners of the Titanic had simply reaffirmed what John Harper already knew. There are people who know Christ and will spend eternity with God in heaven and many others who will not. For us, 100 years after the Titanic, may we be as zealous as Harper was with every opportunity to share Christ with the perishing.



BIBLE VERSES & SALVATION

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Romans 10:9-10 "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."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

Acts 16:30b-31 "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

JUST AS I AM

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

2

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

3

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

4

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;
Yes, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

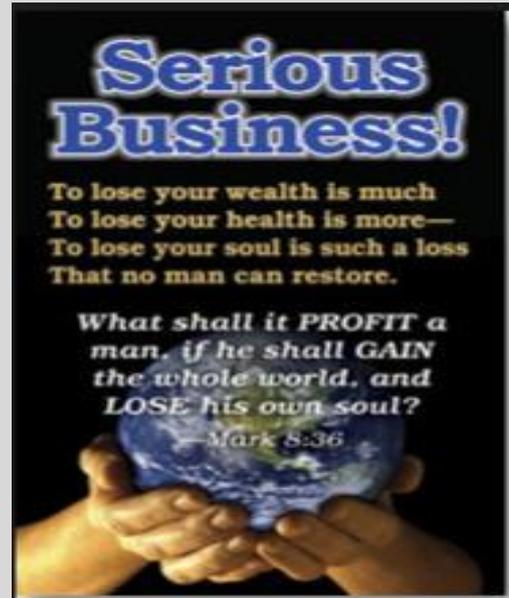
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Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

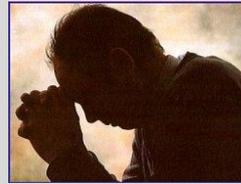
6

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Come!
JUST AS YOU ARE



POINT TO PONDER



**'Whosoever
shall call upon the
Name of the Lord,
shall be saved'.
Romans 10:13**

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