

# 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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***The British naval vessel HMS Orpheus cut an impressive sight as she moved, in full sail, towards the lonely, rugged coast of New Zealand. It was Saturday, February 7, 1863, and a fine clear morning.***

The Commodore was on the bridge, studying the chart and giving commands to set the course of the ship. Every now and then he lifted his spyglass to take a quick look at the signal mast up on the hill. The signalman was putting up signals to help guide the ship safely up the channel, clear of dangerous sandbanks, and into the harbour.

### THE SHOUTING

But...what was that commotion? It was Fred Butler, held as a prisoner on board for attempting to desert. This man had sailed into the harbour before. He knew that the treacherous sandbanks had shifted, and that a new chart had been drawn up for ships to follow. He could see from his tiny porthole that the ship was on the wrong course. Now he was banging on his door and shouting. At last someone unlocked the door. Out rushed the prisoner onto the bridge, crying that the ship was 'going wrong'. The Commodore showed him his chart. But Fred Butler cried, in great agitation, "That's the wrong chart!" He kept pointing out the right channel.

Men gathered around, worried.

The Commodore shouted orders for his men to change the course of the vessel, but it was too late. There was a great jolt. The *Orpheus* had hit a sandbank!

Men were flung off their feet. Guns came loose and skidded across the deck, and hatches broke open. The ship swung round. A great wave swept over her. It was early afternoon and she was stuck fast.

### THE SHIPWRECK



Soon the wind arose, and waves broke over the ship again and again. The *Orpheus* began to break up. The men climbed up the masts and clung to them. Then it began to get dark. By now the ship was almost under the water. Suddenly, with a great crack, the main mast broke - taking dozens of men with it. Soon the second mast went down, then the third, carrying more of the men into the raging sea. Some grabbed at pieces of wreckage, some were picked up by a steamer that had come to help, but most were drawn down under the waves to drown.

***That night, 189 souls, including the Commodore, perished. Only 69 lived - among them Fred Butler, who tried to save the ship.***

This tragic event reminds us that life is uncertain.

You sail among the shifting sands of sin; there are hidden dangers ahead. You need to follow the right chart. Otherwise, no matter how careful or how sincere you are, you will end in shipwreck, and be lost forever. This was exactly the problem with the *Orpheus*.

They were relying on the wrong chart. If you set your course by the chart of the Word of God, you will never 'end up on a sandbank' and perish. Your safe arrival in the Heavenly Harbour will be certain. The Lord Jesus died so that all who believe in Him might be saved. He said, "*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish*" **John 10:28**.

The survivors from the *Orpheus* were taken to the signal station. There they met the distressed signalman. "I gave the right signals," he said, "but the ship didn't obey them." Has someone been sharing the gospel with you? They are giving you unerring signals for salvation and deliverance from God's judgment. You dare not disobey their message.

Did you note that the one person who could have saved the *Orpheus* was shut up as a prisoner? He called and knocked, but by the time they decided to listen to him – it was too late.

***The Saviour is calling; don't ignore Him! Don't leave it too late to pay attention to His loving call.***

The men were close to the shore, but most couldn't reach it. How terrible it would be to get close to salvation – 'almost persuaded' – and then to miss out. *Via Magazine*

The Bible says,

***Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation***  
**2 Corinthians 6:2.**

The Saviour said,

***I am the way, the truth, and the life***  
**John 14:6**



## **What Shall I Do With Jesus?**

This question was asked by Pilate, and comes to you, with all its force and reality.

"Pilate saith unto them: 'What shall I do then with Jesus, which is called Christ?'"

Did it ever occur to you that this question must be answered by every individual – including kings, rulers and nations?

We must answer it as individuals, because God has proved the whole world guilty – both Jew and Gentile **Rom. 3:9**. That every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. **Rom. 3: 19**.

We must answer this question as individuals, because the Father has provided in His Son a Saviour for those whom he has proved guilty.

***"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."*** **John 3: 16.**

The Lord Jesus Christ at the cross met every just and holy claim God had against sin and the sinner.

***"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.***

***All we, like sheep, have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."***  
**Isa. 53: 5, 6.**

The work of redemption was finished at the cross. The great sin question was settled. It is now the SON question – What will you do with this Man who is called Christ?

There is no getting away from this. You had better plead guilty to the charges that are against you and have this matter settled.

There is pardon for the guilty. You may meet Christ NOW as your Saviour; or meet Him after DEATH as your Judge. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." **Heb. 9: 27.**

He (God) has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness, BY that Man whom He hath ordained. **Acts 17:31**

### What Will You Do With Jesus?

The above question does not mean, have you been baptized? Have you joined the church? Are you doing the best you can? Are you sincere? Have you accepted a certain doctrine or creed?

No, it is a Divine Living Person, the SON OF GOD that is before you. The One Who said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but my Me." **John 14: 6.**

Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour? Are you trusting in His shed BLOOD and work on the cross ALONE for salvation?

Or are you depending on what you are in yourself. Are you trusting in your so-called good works, morality, and on what you think you are doing for God? *Harold Smith*

**If YOU died today,**  
do you **KNOW**  
*(beyond a shadow of a doubt)*  
where you would spend  
**ETERNITY?**

### WHAT SHALL I THEN DO WITH JESUS?

*Oh, what will you do with Jesus?  
The call comes loud and sweet;  
As tenderly He bids you  
Your burdens lay at His feet,  
Oh, soul so sad and weary,  
That sweet voice speaks to thee;*

*Then what you will do with Jesus?  
Oh, what shall the answer be?*

*Oh, what will you do with Jesus?  
The call comes loud and clear;  
The solemn words are sounding  
In every listening ear;  
Immortal life's the question,  
And joy through eternity;*

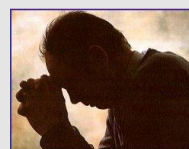
*Then what you will do with Jesus?  
Oh, what shall the answer be?*

*Oh, think of the King of Glory  
From Heav'n to earth come down,  
His life so pure and holy,  
His death, His cross, His crown;  
Of His divine compassion,  
His sacrifice for thee;*

*Then what you will do with Jesus?  
Oh, what shall the answer be?*



### POINT TO PONDER



The great sin question was settled –  
when Christ cried on the cross –  
'IT IS FINISHED'.

It is now the SON question -  
What will you do with this Man who is  
called Christ?

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