

Why The Ship Is Sinking

In 1628 the Swedish warship Vasa was set to take its maiden voyage. The ship was built upon completion was one of the most powerfully armed vessels in the world. However the maiden voyage didn't go that well. Less than a mile offshore the ship encountered what was described as a slight breeze that capsized and sank it.

How could such a powerful war ship go to the depths so easily? It was generally considered to have been built asymmetrically. This caused the center of gravity to be off and therefore it took very little force to tip the ship. How could that happen?

Well, archaeologists have found four rulers used by the workers; two turned out to be based on Swedish feet with 12 inches, the other two used Amsterdam feet, with 11 inches. One group worked on one side of the ship with their ruler the other on the other side with their ruler. The finished ship may have looked impressive, but it sank the minute it was faced with difficulty.

The same thing I think is happening in our religious world today. People think we can have unity with different doctrine, different rules, and different measures. It might look impressive but that boat won't float. There must be one standard, (1st Corinthians 1:10)

You can't build a seaworthy ship with two different rulers. You can't make a structurally sound house with two different blueprints. You can't have a church that is truly His, if you ignore how He told us to build it.

Barry Haynes, Hope, AR

On Being Perfect

Matthew 5:48 states, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Can a human being with all their failing, inconsistencies, and sin ever be perfect? The answer is no! What then does this statement mean? I believe that Jesus is presenting us with a message on how we should live; it is a goal to which we should aspire. It is the struggle to win the race (1 Corinthians 9:24). It is preparation to engage in the fight (1 Corinthians 9:26).

Paul states in Philippians that he presses on to the high mark of God in Christ Jesus. He also states that he has not yet obtained the goal (Philippians 3:11-14). The French foreign legion had a motto, "march or die." When children of God quit they die. It is a matter of continuing to place one foot in front of the others. And in time the race is won and the fight is over and we have reached our goal. Second Timothy 4:7 says, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown..."

Floyd C. Johnson Shreveport, LA

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

February 12, 2017



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

7:pm

Will Vann, Preacher

863-899-0987

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

www.evanchurchofchrist.org

Heart to Heart, Face to Facebook

"A man's wisdom maketh his face to shine" (Ecc. 8:1). What about the example you set before others on the internet? Does your Christian light shine on Facebook? Do you use wisdom about what you post or share?

There is no question that this avenue of communication is used for good. Family, friends, and church members stay in touch. We learn about good works and good news in other congregations. We hear about needs and tragedies that cause us to pray more. We enjoy clean humor and read encouraging words. This modern marvel is even used to teach the Bible. While it can never replace face-to-face conversation, social media allow Christians to influence others for the Lord.

Any form of communication can be abused. Anywhere people gather there will be good and bad. We expect the world to talk about bad things, but it is awful when Christians act like the world. Sometimes Christians post things on Facebook they shouldn't:

Bad language. There is no excuse for this. The Bible says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29). It doesn't matter if the story is funny. It doesn't matter if the statement makes a good point about politics and the condition of our country. There is a right and wrong way to talk about things. You should never attach your name to cussing and profanity.

Indecent photos. Some Christians who would not dream of being seen in underwear go out in public in what amounts to the same thing. They call them swimsuits or beachwear, but they cover about as much as underwear. "But that's different" they say. Then can someone please explain the difference without sounding ridiculous? When Adam and Eve made aprons of fig leaves, they were still "naked." They had on some clothes but not enough (Gen. 3:7-10). The same applies to tops that show cleavage and short skirts. If Christians don't keep their bodies covered, how are they any different from the world (Isa. 47:1-3; Rom. 12:1-2)?

Unscriptural talk. There are all kinds of sayings circulating on the internet that might sound good on the surface but are not biblical. Someone will post a statement that says we are to love people, not judge them. But that depends on what kind of judging is under consideration. If a person is talking about hypocritical judging—condemning others while doing worse—then that is what Jesus meant when He said "Judge not" (Matt. 7:1). But often people mean we should not tell homosexuals, Muslims, or atheists they are wrong because that is judging. These statements are false. We are commanded to "judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24), and it is our duty to reprove sin (Eph. 5:11). Christians need to consider what they are saying and whom they are quoting.

There may be Christians who don't "like" this article, but it is time that someone said these things. We could add to this list things like gossiping and childish complaining. Facebook is a public arena. Let your light shine. People are watching. More importantly, God is watching.
Kerry Duke Livingston, TN

Those to Serve

(B) Vernon Houts (FV) Keith Stifflemire

(O) Doug Pruett (A) Calvin Burks

1st prayer Mike Mallett

2nd prayer Kyle Stifflemire

Announcements: Calvin Burks

Singing: Jeffrey Burks

Prayer List:

Boyce Edwards
Naomi Wall
Letha Sheldon
Mildred Lovell
Janese Lancaster
Ruby Jones
Lloyd Crownover
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personal

Dates to Remember

February 14th

Valentine Day

February 20th

Presidents Day

February 26th

Noon Fellowship

March 5th

Mission Sunday

March 12th

Daylight Savings Time

March 13th thru March 19th

Spring Break

How to Observe the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is observed:

- "In spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).
- "Decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- In remembrance of Christ's sacrifice (Luke 22: 19).
- In anticipation of Christ's return (1 Corinthians 11:26).
- On the first day of each week (Acts 20:7).
- Upon self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28).
- To proclaim Christ as the Savior of men (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Happy Birthday

Avery Vann, Feb 11th

Lindy Burks, Feb 14th

Mac Vann, Feb 14th

Koh Stapp March 12th

Dennis Sheldon March 30th

Happy Anniversary

To

**Vernon & Linda Houts
February 14th**