

## SHIPWRECK

Text: 1 Tim. 1:18-20

INTRO: It was the night of April 14 & the morning of April 15, 1912, 86 years ago, that the British luxury liner, the Titanic made its first, last & only voyage. Those who designed the ship, those who built it, those who owned it, those who launched it, & those who sailed on it all declared that the ship was unsinkable. The Titanic was 882 feet long, had a gross weight of 46,328 tons. It carried 2,200 passengers with enough lifeboats for about one half that many.

The ship's owners, the captain, & even the passengers were hoping to set a new trans-Atlantic passenger trip speed record. During the night of April 14, the captain of the Titanic had received several warnings of icebergs but he continued, full speed ahead, ignoring those warnings. After all, the Titanic was unsinkable. Everybody said so.

And then it happened. The Titanic struck an iceberg & began to sink. Distress flares were sent aloft. 705 passengers survived the wreck, thanks primarily to another British liner whose captain saw the rockets from 58 miles away & sped to the rescue. Another ship only 10 miles from the wreck saw the distress signals, but ignored them. 1,500 people lost their lives in the wreck of the Titanic 86 years ago. The wreck could have been avoided, but warnings were ignored, unnecessary chances were taken, overconfidence prevailed.

### I. THE APOSTLE PAUL KNEW ABOUT SHIPWRECKS.

A. In Acts 27, Luke describes the destruction of a ship in which both he & Paul were passengers. Paul was a prisoner, being transported to Rome to be tried in Caesar's court.

1. Paul was an experienced traveler. He had been in at least 3 shipwrecks before this one, 2 Cor. 11:25 (written about 3 yrs before the incident recorded in Acts 27).
2. He tried to warn those in charge of the ship that to sail at that time of year was dangerous, Acts 27:9-11.

3. His warnings were ignored, the ship & its cargo were destroyed. Had it not been for Paul's prayers, lives would have been lost, vs. 22,-24.

B. In our text, Paul uses such shipwrecks to illustrate something even more tragic--the ruination of a soul made in the image of God.

## II. THE CONTEXT SUGGESTS 3 THINGS THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SPIRITUAL SHIPWRECK.

A. Rejecting the faith, the gospel of Christ.

1. May stray from it, 1:6; 6:10, 20-22
2. Make shipwreck of it, text.
3. Depart from it, 4:1.
4. Deny it, 5:8.
5. Cast it off, 5:12.

Hebrews 11:6; John 8:21, 24

B. Rejecting the urgings of conscience.

1. The human conscience is a God-given mechanism that prompts us to do what we believe is right, and to avoid what we believe is wrong.
2. When we ignore & override our conscience, we are not even trying to do right & we sin. Rom14:23
3. Continually ignoring your conscience will eventually lead to a condition the H.S. describes as:
  - a. being past feeling, Eph. 4:19
  - b. having conscience seared, 1 Tim 4:2
  - c. becoming hardened, Eph. 4:18
  - d. beyond the power to repent, Heb. 6:4-6.

C. Accepting the doctrines of false teachers who speak well of that which is evil & speak evil (blaspheme) the good. Text. Isa. 5:20: evil good, put darkness for

light, bitter

READ JUDE 10-12.

NOTE: The Gr. word for "spots" (vs. 12) literally means hidden rocks. Hidden rocks, just below the surface of the water are not visible until you are upon them. Then they look like harmless spots in the sea. But many a ship has been wrecked on those spots.

- D. Two other lessons might be learned from the wreck of the Titanic, & from the shipwreck recorded in Acts 27.
1. The dangers of wrong priorities. lives/cargo
  2. The danger of overconfidence. Unsinkable. Simon Peter.

READ I CORINTHIANS 10:1-12.

CONCLUSION: Renew your faith as often as you can by continuing to study God's word, Rom. 10:17. Keep your conscience clear by living up to the light God has shed into your heart thru His word. Test all religious exhortations and admonitions by the Divine standard. Value Spiritual treasures over material considerations. And NEVER let your guard down. Spiritual shipwreck happened to Hymenaeus & Alexander. It happened to Demas. It almost happened to Simon Peter. And it could happen to you.

Exton, PA, April 14, 1991

Wrightsville, PA, April 14, 1992

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 16, 1995

Alief, TX, April 12, 1998

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 19, 1998