

Matthew 14: 25-33

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Safety within Reach

It is always a shock to hear of a family who perish in a house fire when stored away in that house is a fire alarm which could have saved all, if it had been installed. An even greater tragedy occurs daily as countless numbers of people, within reach of eternal life, pass into eternity because they have never appropriated the means of their salvation.

Charles Spurgeon, known as "the prince of preachers" once wrote "It will not save me to know that Christ is a Saviour; but it will save me to trust him to be my Saviour. I shall not be delivered from the wrath to come, by believing that his atonement is sufficient; but I shall be saved by making that atonement my trust, my refuge and my all."

Be reminded of these Bible verses: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God 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). It has been said of this verse that people can miss heaven by eighteen inches, the distance between the mind which knows that safety lies in Christ and the heart which never in faith reaches out to receive Him. The epistle of John emphasises this point of decision: "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11-12).

The Bible clearly states that faith in Christ alone secures salvation "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). This is a faith that turns the heart in sorrow from sin (repentance) to Christ's substitutional death (belief). Scriptures are clear when they state "For 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). Therefore the securing of salvation is not dependent upon any works of man such as being baptized or joining a church, these follow the point of decision.

It is not the life buoy on board the ship that saves a drowning man, nor his belief that it can save him. No, he must take hold of it or else he will sink. Don't perish with the multitudes in reach of safety ... accept God's free gift of life through faith in Christ today. "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).

What is my response:
