

“Unsinkable?”

By: Larry DeLong

I wonder what was going through the mind of the captain of the luxury liner Titanic when he was warned of large icebergs in his area. Perhaps his thoughts were, “This ship is unsinkable. I can sail through these waters with no problems.” I imagine those in command of the German battleship, the Bismark, were thinking the same thing. She was the largest battleship ever made during the WWII era and was known as “the terror of the seven seas.” Though both captains thought their ships were unsinkable, they both ended up at the bottom of the sea with hundreds of casualties.

Like those “unsinkable” ships, we humans often think of ourselves as invincible. When a person sets himself up high on a pedestal, he is sure to fall, and the damage will often be significant. The Bible warns us, as individuals, of that very danger. Paul said that man is “*not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,*” Romans 12:3. James said, “*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up,*” James 4:10. The apostle Peter gives a similar admonition in 1 Peter 5:5-6, “*Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and given grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*” If you want to be great, then walk before God in humility and let Him exalt you. God resists those who are arrogant, and they will eventually find themselves sinking to the bottom of the sea. “*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall,*” 1 Corinthians 10:12.

Not only do we inflict great damage to our own self by haughty thinking, but there will also be others we take down as collateral damage. The captain of the Titanic and the commander of the Bismark did not perish alone; their decisions cost the lives of many others, as well. None of us are islands out on a lonely sea. We all wield an influence upon others in one way or another. If others follow us in our prideful ways, they too will suffer. Solomon gave a warning to everyone, “*Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall,*” Proverbs 16:18.

Don’t be haughty and take your soul’s salvation for granted, refusing admonition and instruction, thinking you are already perfect. Rather, constantly look into that mirror to your soul (the Bible), and see how you measure up in every aspect of your life. We are not the best captain of our own ship; God is. Solomon said, “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death,*” Proverbs 14:12. Jesus made it clear that there will be many surprised people on Judgment Day in Matthew 7:22-23. Don’t allow yourself to be found in that group. Search the scriptures daily to be certain of your daily walk so there will be no hidden surprises. Remember, you are not unsinkable.